MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MARCH 1981

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Peace Proposals--After its second visit to Tehran and Baghdad, the Islamic Conference good offices committee returned to Jidda, where it announced proposals presented to both Iran and Iraq for a comprehensive peace settlement. The statement, carried textually by SPA, called for a cease-fire on 13 March followed by an Iraqi withdrawal starting on 20 March, to be completed within 4 weeks. The Shatt al-'Arab dispute will be submitted to a committee acceptable to both sides. Pending the agreement on this, the statement continues, the waterway will be controlled by a special body assisted by a peacekeeping force. Other differences are to be solved through negotiations following Iraq's withdrawal. The Islamic Conference Organization will guarantee each side's respect of its commitments. The two countries are also called on to commit themselves to a set of principles including respect for each other's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and acceptance of the principle of freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab.

Earlier, statements by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti indicated that Iran will refuse to accept a cease-fire before Iraq withdraws from Iran. In a statement carried by Tehran radio, Raja'i said that the war will continue until Iran is "completely assured of the termination of the aggression and of the elimination of its vestiges." According to PARS, Rafsanjani said that as long as the Majlis is in charge of decision-making, "we will never agree to a cease-fire" before Iraq withdraws its troops. Rafsanjani added that acting Chief of Staff Gen Valiollah Fallahi's previously reported remarks welcoming a short cease-fire before an Iraqi withdrawal were the general's personal views and do not reflect the consensus in the Supreme Defense Council. AFP reported that Beheshti told a Tehran press conference that without an Iraqi withdrawal any peace agreement would be "treachery" and it would be impossible to start work on "other problems."

INA reported that during his meeting with the good offices committee Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said there can be no Iraqi withdrawal before Iran recognizes Iraq's rights.

New Radio Station--A clandestine station identifying itself as the "Voice of Al-Qadisiyah From Ahvaz" was heard broadcasting in Arabic on 2 March. Among other things, it carried a short talk attacking the Iranian and Syrian regimes and a feature called "Know Your Enemy," which was directed at soldiers and discussed combat and defense techniques. An announcement on 3 March said the radio is "the voice of the Arab revolution in the Ahvaz district" emanating from "within Ahvaz territory." Its goal, it added, is the "liberation of this usurped district." The station broadcasts twice daily: 3 hours in the morning and 5 hours in the evening.

Military Situation--According to Tehran radio, Iranian guerrillas infiltrated 50 km into Iraqi territory in a 4-day operation during which they planted mines along Iraqi supply routes. The radio also reported continued artillery battles along the southern and western fronts. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that Iraqi aircraft bombed oil installations northeast of Dehloran, destroying a pumping station, eight fuel storage tanks and some pipelines. Citing the magazine ALIF BA', INA also reported that 19,331 Iranian troops have been killed over the last 6 months, while 563 Iranian aircraft have been downed.

Iran

A Foreign Affairs Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio drew attention to the plans by "hegemonist forces" for "illegitimate infiltration" into the Persian Gulf region and for "strengthening their illegal presence" there. Defining the Foreign Ministry's viewpoints on Gulf security, the statement said that no foreign force should be allowed to intervene in the affairs of other regions under any pretext. The statement deplored the "ever-increasing influence of the superpowers," particularly the United States, in the Gulf, which will keep the region in a state of "tension and instability," thereby increasing the superpowers' excuses for rivalry in the Gulf and eliminating the rights and independence of its inhabitants. The Foreign Ministry noted that Iran guarantees passage through the Hormuz Strait while emphasizing Iran's "legitimate rights" and added that recent experience shows that Iran has been and will be able to honor this guarantee.

An unattributed commentary by Tehran radio's Arabic service warned against an Anglo-American plan to "restore foreign sovereignty and influence" in the Gulf. The commentary said that the "threat" posed by the "new Anglo-Americanism" would become "more serious" if France joined in as a third party. Gulf security is indeed threatened, the radio added, by the United States and Britain, which some "ignorant rulers" in the region consider to be protectors of the Gulf.

Syria

Reacting to a 2 March speech by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, an unattributed Damascus radio commentary said that Badran broke new ground by openly instigating "sedition" against Syria, using such methods as "fabricating events, forging history and fawning upon groups and sects." It claimed that such "degeneration" is demanded by King Husayn, who needs to use "peripheral differences" to distract Jordanian public opinion from his betrayal of national issues and "secret plotting" with the Israelis. However, Jordanian and Syrian citizens know that the dispute between Syria and Jordan actually centers on their differing stands on the Palestinian issue, it claimed. All regimes that follow the "path of agentry and treason," it concluded, will fall.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that President Anwar as-Sada: issued a decree appointing Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the armed forces. Other decrees, reported by MENA, appointed a new chief of staff and announced 11 other high-level armed forces appointments.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

A special plane was sent from Peshawar to Kabul, Karachi radio reported, to pick up the women and children passengers released from a Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 720 that was hijacked to Kabul on 2 March while en route from Karachi to Peshawar. According to other Karachi radio reports, Kabul authorities had earlier denied landing permission to a plane sent from Rawalpindi to pick up the released hostages, and the Pakistani negotiating team sent to Kabul has not been allowed to see them or to establish contact, except by radio, with the hijackers. The hijacked aircraft remains on the ground at Kabul airport.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON PEACE PROPOSAL

LD050942 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda, 5 Mar (SPA)--The Islamic good offices committee today published the text of the proposals presented to both Iran and Iraq to halt the war raging between them and to solve the Iraqi-Iranian dispute by peaceful means. [passage indistinct]

Here is the text of the statement issued by the committee about the proposals to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute:

The Islamic good offices committee comprising eight member presidents and premiers of the Islamic Conference Organization and the secretary general of the organization, which has been formed in accordance with the decision of the third Islamic Conference summit held in Mecca and in At-Ta'if in January 1981, is fully aware of the unanimity of the Islamic nation for the need to halt the despite between the two sisters, Iran and Iraq, in an urgent, just and dignified manner.

The committee fully believes in the principles of Islam for encouraging peace and harmony among Muslim brothers who have been divided and who have begun an armed conflict. Motivated by the unanimity reached among the presidents and premiers of the Islamic Conference Organization, the committee met the Iranian and the Iraqi leaders and heard with great attention their points of view and appealed to them to adhere to the teachings of the Koran which call for resolving disputes between brothers amicably and by peaceful means.

In view of the committee's profound concern at the increasing losses in human life and precious material resources, which is liable to weaken both the Iraqi and the Iranian Islamic fraternal peoples and harm the unity of the Islamic nation and exhaust its strength, the committee presents to both sides the following comprehensive proposal to facilitate the finding of a peace settlement in accordance with Islam and the principles of justice and international law.

A. The principles:

1. Iran and Iraq shall fully respect each other's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2. The Iraqi and Iranian sides shall restate that they do not accept the principle of the acquisition of territories by force.

3. Iran and Iraq shall reaffirm the principle of noninterference of either side in the internal affairs of the other in any form.

4. Iran and Iraq shall reaffirm their acceptance of the principle of settling international differences by peaceful means.

5. Iran and Iraq shall accept the principle of freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab.

B. Elements for a comprehensive peace settlement:

1. The cease-fire between Iraq and Iran shall come into force on the night of Thursday, 13 March 1981 at 0000.

2. The Iraqi forces shall withdraw from the Iranian territories on Friday, 20 March 1981, the withdrawal to be completed within 4 weeks in accordance with (?the recommendation) of a miltiary subcommittee.

3. The cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces shall take place under the supervision of military observers acceptable to both sides from the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization.

4. The question of the Shatt al-'Arab shall be submitted to a committee comprising members of the Islamic Conference Organization acceptable to both sides, Iran and Iraq, to detail the basic regulations for this waterway.

5. Negotiations shall be held to find a peaceful solution to other differences following the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the Iranian territories.

6. Declarations shall be exchanged between Iraq and Iran on the noninterference of each party in the internal affairs of the other.

7. The member states of the Islamic Conference Organization will undertake to guarantee each side's respect to its commitments based on a comprehensive peace settlement and the stationing of observers on both sides of the international borders of the two countries as and when necessary for a specific period.

C. Temporary measures for ensuring freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab:

1. Commencing from the date when the cease-fire comes into effect and pending a final agreement on the Shatt al-'Arab, navigation in the Shatt Al-'Arab shall be under the control of a special body which is under the supervision of the Islamic Conference Organization.

2. This special body shall be empowered to ask the Islamic Conference Organization to place at its dispoal a peacekeeping force to assist it in its task of ensuring freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab during this period.

D. The Islamic good offices committee shall set up a subcommittee to assist both sides to (?carry out) the measures for a comprehensive peace settlement, [comprising the following members]:

1. His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, the president of Guinea and chairman of the Islamic good offices committee.

2. His Excellency Dawda Jawara, president of Gambia.

3. His Excellency Ziaur Rahman, president of Bangladesh.

4. His Excellency Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan.

5. His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

6. His Highness Bulent Ulusu, prime minister of Turkey.

7. His Highness Moustapha Niasse, foreign minister of Senegal.

8. His Highness Ahmad Rithauddeen ibn Ismail, the special envoy of the Malaysian prime minister and Malaysian foreign minister.

9. His Highness Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Chatti Press Conference

LD050818 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization and member of the Islamic good offices committee, Habib Chatti, said the committee had presented during this tour specific proposals to both Iraq and Iran aimed at halting the fighting and ending the war between them. At a press conference held on the committee's return, Habib Chatti said that the committee has asked the responsible officials in the two countries to study the proposals submitted to them and to give the committee their replies to these proposals. He said we have reached the road of peace which we hope will be soon.

He said that during its visit to Iran, the committee met with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and members of the Iranian defense committee. It also met Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni and submitted its proposals to the Iranian leaders. He said that the committee received warm hospitality from responsible Iranian officials. Chatti said that during its visit to Iraq and its meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the committee presented the same proposals, the contents of which Chatti did not disclose.

PLO OFFICE IN CSSR UPGRADED TO EMBASSY LEVEL

JN041748 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Czechoslovakia has upgraded the level of diplomatic representation of the PLO office in Prague to that of an embassy.

Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, now on an official visit to Czechoslovakia, has signed the joint Czechoslovak-Palestinian protocol for the next 5 years. During his meeting with the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, Brother Abu al-Lutf discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

AL-HASAN ON U.S. POLICY, EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

LD041553 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Feb-6 Mar 81 pp 1-4

[Interview granted by Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, to Samir Sahahin in Beirut--date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you at the PLO evaluate the At-Ta'if summit resolutions on the Palestine problem and the question of Jerusalem?

[Answer] The recent Islamic summit will go down in history as one of the conferences that had the greatest impact on the Palestine problem and was distinguished by its many positive results which came at an opportune historical time.

For the first time the summit adopted a resolution clearly condemning the United States and U.S. support for Israel. This condemnation came in four clauses in the resolutions on the Palestinian problem. This condemnation is a message from the Islamic peoples to Europe and the United States to the effect that these peoples are getting tired of the Israeli and U.S. policies on the Middle East problem. The clause on Jerusalem providing for severing relations with any world country that recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist enemy is particularly significant in that when the Upper Volca delegate tried to express reservations on this resolution he received a clear message from the host country that he would not benefit from the economic aid fund which the conference decided to set up. Thus Upper Volta found itself isolated and its president was forced to withdraw his reservations.

[Question] President Reagan initiated his era with an attack on the PLO, describing it as a terrorist organization, but subsequently there have been official U.S. statements mentioning "Palestinians' aspirations." Do you believe that the new U.S. administration will continue to puruse the "big stick policy" toward the Palestine problem or will it give rise to hopes that the Republicans could approve of a role for the PLO in a solution? What is the PLO's attitude toward this sensitive question? Is it one of wait-and-see or of striking at U.S. interests in the area, as some people say?

[Answer] We in the PLO believe that we are entering difficult but positive times because the conflict between us and Israel and the United States will escalate. This time it will be a conflict for the consecration of Palestinian political gains and not only for the defense of the Palestinian revolutionary presence. Every revolutionary waits for the moment when the extraordinary becomes ordinary. I believe that the Palestinian revolution has begun to experience this stage and that it must exploit it in order to achieve maximum political gains worthy of the large number of martyrs that our heroic people have sacrificed. We all realize that international detente no longer exists. No other people suffered more than the Palestinian people from the detente between the Soviets and the Americans. Today the world has returned to the tense atmosphere between the two giants. The United States wants to share the world with the Soviet Union and wants to expel the European and Soviet presence from the Middle East, which means that a conflict has erupted and therefore there is a major contradiction which the Palestinians should exploit either in Europe or by developing relations with the Soviet Union in the hope that the latter will move from the stage of political support to that of military support. Therefore, the United States is no longer in a position to deal exclusively with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people as has been the case in the past few years. Also Israel is in a state of bitter internal strife and division and there are many who now believe that there is no future for Israel and that the future of the Jewish people depends on the creation of a democratic Palestinian state. This is particularly true of the Arab Jews who constitute half the population. Reagan began his talk [about Palestine] from a point a long way short of the facts realized by the Carter administration. Can anybody deny that the world's most powerful state, the United States, the biggest Arab state, Egypt, and the most powerful state in the area, Israel, signed the Camp David accords and yet could not ignore or overlook the Palestinian presence. If even during this critical period of international detente the Palestinian presence could not be ignored or overlooked, then how will the situation be today when tension has returned and, as a result, the Palestinian fighter becomes an element in demand in the international conflict in the most explosive area between the two giants and the area of World War III. Reagan, with the iron and steel cartel on his right and the oil cartel on his left, will realize that the United States has no interest in refusing to recognize the Palestinian presence, the PLO, and an independent state for such recognition will determine whether he keeps or loses his allies in the area. The Americans realize more than anybody else that we live in the early eighties when everything is likely to happen in this world; even a world war has become a possibility. The Palestinians will not miss their historical opportunity of taking part in this stage. Our slogan is: "Nobody will enjoy security and stability at the expense of the security and stability of the Palestinians and the Palestine problem." We feel that this stage is important and critical. We are preparing for all eventualities and are working on all levels, both inside and outside the occupied territories, which does not allow us to talk now about what can be done because every successful action has a historical and far-reaching impact. [sentence as published] As I said, we have always lived in hope but today we live in the stage of sensing the ability to achieve victory and shape the future for, after 17 years of struggle, the extraordinary has become ordinary.

[Question] Since the new U.S. administration came to power there has been what seems to be a deliberate silence regarding Europe's promises to come forward with an initiative to solve the Middle East problem. The secret document approved by the Luxembourg summit does not recognize a clear role for the PLO. Does this mean a change in the European attitude and what will be the PLO's attitude toward the EC countries if it is proved that such a change has actually taken place?

[Answer] It is known that there is a 30-page foolscap document that was adopted by the nine European countries. The Netherlands foreign minister will shortly come and will discuss this document with us. He is supposed to bring with him a certain written text b t not necessarily the whole document. I do not subscribe to the view that Europe is inclining toward ignoring the PLO. Our information indicates that the PLO is cited four times in those pages [of the document]. Also our relations with Europe are becoming warmer. In addition, there are objective reasons behind Europe's inclination toward the Palestinians, most important of which is Europe's feeling that in the long term Israel is no longer the power that guarantees Western interests in the area. But a more important objective reason is Europe's feeling that the United States, by rejecting detente, insisting on sharing the world with the Soviets, and resorting to Camp David, was taking a step that said: "This area is mine and, therefore, it is up to me alone to solve the problems with Egypt and Israel." Europe, whose interests dictate that it remains in the area, realizes that the only way to win over the Arabs, Muslims, Christians and, therefore, to be able to remain in the area is to recognize the fact that the Palestine problem is the crux of the conflict in the area. Europe has done this although there are different levels of enthusaism for this problem. France, which is the European country most independent of the United States, is ready to pursue its own Middle East policy even despite U.S. opposition, while Thatcher's Britain prefers understanding with the United States on adopting common views on the Middle East; in other words it wants to reach agreement on sharing Western interests in the area. We feel that Europe has begun to realise general principles for the achievement of justice, albeit limited, for the Palestinian people's cause, most important of which is its recognition in the secret document of the principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people and of enemy withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. This stand is way ahead of the Soviet-U.S. joint statement as a context. There remains the question of whether Europe is capable of continuing to move and to stand up to the Israeli-U.S. moves. The French say: We have begun to move and we will not stop. But the realization of achievements need time because what is required is a European stand including all and not just some European countries.

In any case we welcome the Netherlands foreign minister's visit. We will give him our official view when he puts the matter officially to us although we believe that 1981 is a year for sowing, not reaping. We in Fatah believe that armed struggle sows while political struggle reaps. He who does not sow does not reap. The European move is a recognition that our martyrs who have fallen in the past 17 years have sown. We have to sow much in the coming 2 years in order to create facts.

[Question] Does your statement that you are facing a difficult year mean that 1981 will be a year of military escalation?

[Answer] Military action will always remain the basic characteristic of Palestinian struggle. This does not mean denying the importance of political and diplomatic action; it is just that the nature of the enemy dictates on you the type of means you use. An enemy which, in the Likud Party program and Labor Party program, decided to physically liquidate the PLO and its leadership can be faced only with bullets and revolutionary violence.

We the Palestinians lived until 1965 without fighting but we discovered that the world does not sympathize with the victim but always respects those who fight. A fascist power like Israel can be faced only with an armed struggle.

[Question] What do you see behind President as-Sadat's move toward Europe and does this move betray a fear of U.S. backing for the Jordanian option?

[Answer] As-Sadat has begun to realize that the end of the stage of international detente will drive Europe toward adopting a new stand that will be ahead of the autonomy proposed by Camp David. Also Europe, and particularly France, has begun to declare that Camp David is not the way to solve the crux of the conflict in the Middle East. Therefore, As-Sadat has begun to realize that the fig leaf which he tried to use in implementing Camp David has fallen and he has therefore begun to look for new relations because an alliance with the United States is an alliance with the wolf. Moreover As-Sadat is looking for a role in Chad which the United States did not give him.

[Question] On several recent occasions King Husayn has denied the existence of a "Jordanian option" while certain Palestinian quarters still express suspicions regarding such an option. What is the truth and what is the reason for the PLO's adherence to dialogue with Jordan despite the demand by several Palestinian quarters to break off this dialogue?

[Answer] We in Fatah are confident of ourselves and of our people. We believe that as long as the Palestinian people carry arms, are cohesive within the PLO framework and are properly mobilized there is no room for any option other than the Palestinian option which the Mecca statement clearly declared. Camp David is a bigger conspiracy than any new non-national option that might be put to the Palestinian people. We defeated Camp David when our people rejected it and adhered to the PLO leadership. We will not enable [Israeli Labor Party leader] Peres or the U.S. administration to create side conflicts for us. We are prepared to defend our legitimate political gains if there is a need to do so. We are taking part in the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for several reasons, the first of which is that the recent Palestine National Council approved the legitimacy of this action and found it suitable. The second reason is that we are committed to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit that was held after the signing of the Camp David accords; the resolutions have isolated As-Sadat and united the Arabs against Camp David.

[Question] Will the PLO be affected by the serious deterioration in relations between Syria and both Jordan and Iraq? Does the PLO intend to make a special effort to halt this deterioration and is there any hope of Arab reconciliations, or was the Amman summit the last Arab summit?

[Answer] There is no doubt that any inter-Arab fighting or side conflict is not in the interest of the Palestine problem. The PLO is striving for an Arab solidarity that will move and be concentrated against the Zionist enemy. Syria is a fundamental part of any plan to confront the Zionist enemy not only on the political level but especially in the field of military confrontation. The Iraqi Army is fundamental in waging war against the Zionist enemy. Therefore, we want the Iraq-Iran war to come to an end so Iraq will take its place against the Zionist enemy. Let the Iranian Army also come to participate in the liberation of Jerusalem. It is customary for Arabs to be in conflict with one another. But I believe that there will be an Arab summit at which Arab solidarity will be restored when pressure on the area will heighten because we are passing through a stage in which everything is likely to change. Therefore, everybody will find himself forced to take part in joint action at such a historic stage for the sake of the future generation.

BAHRAIN

SOURCES CITED ON GULF SECURITY CONSULTATIONS

JN050843 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0755 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Manama, 5 Mar (GNA)--Gulf diplomatic sources affirmed today that consultations are currently being held to adopt a unified stand on bolstering Gulf security. This is in response to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's recent call in the United States.

The Bahraini weekly magazine AL-MASIRAH quotes these sources as saying that the officials in the Arab Gulf states are displeased with Thatcher's statements, which followed the formation of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf states. Those who agreed to the formation of this council feel that the Gulf's security is solely the responsibility of its states, without the interference of foreign powers, the purpose being to achieve stability in the region and to remove it from international conflicts.

The magazine points out that during several meetings with European officials, the Arab Gulf states' officials affirmed to the European states that the sons of the Gulf are responsible for security in the region and that the European states must heed this.

KUWAIT

FORMATION OF NEW KUWAITI CABINET ANNOUNCED

LD041638 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Decree issued on 4 March in connection with the formation of the Kuwaiti Cabinet]

[Text] After taking cognizance of Articles 56, 57 and 125 of the constitution, and the order issued on 28 February 1981 regarding the appointment of Crown Prince Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah as prime minister, and in accordance with the submission of the prime minister, we have decreed the following:

Deputy prime minister, foreign minister and acting information minister	Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah
Minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs	Ahmad Sa'd al-Jasir
Minister of commerce and industry	Jasim Khalid al-Marzuq
Minister of social affairs and labor, and minister of housing	Hamad Isa ar-Rujayb
Minister of electricity and water resources	Khalifah Ahmad al-Khalifah
Minister of defense	Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah
Minister of justice and legal and administrative affairs	Salman Du'ayj as-Salman
Minister of public health	Dr 'Abd ar-Bahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi
Minister of state for cabinet affairs	'Abd al-Aziz Husayn
Minister of public works	Abdallah ad-Dukhayl ar-Rushayd
Minister of finance and planning	'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad
Minister of oil	'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah
Minister of communications	Isa Muhammad Ibrahim al-Masidi
Minister of interior	Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah
Minister of education	Dr Ya 'Qub Yusuf al-Ghunaym

Article 2: The prime minister shall implement this decree and communicate it to the National Assembly. This decree shall become effective from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] The amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad; the prime minister, Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah. [Dated] 4 March 1981.

UAE

AL-ITTIHAD ASSAILS THATCHER'S STATEMENT ON RDF

LD041821 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] Mrs Thatcher concluded her visit to Washington the same way she began it--by talking about "Soviet aggression" in the Gulf and her readiness, and France's readiness as well, to participate in the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] in the area. What is irritating is that these statements come shortly before the visit which the British prime minister intends to make to the area, the area about which Mrs Thatcher said "we know it; we were there before." This was the very phrase used by a Zionist politician as he began his aggression against our country.

First, be believe that it is in our interest and the interest of world peace that the major powers--whether the superpowers or the empires on whose territories the sun has set--to take their hands off this region and to withdraw their armies and forces. This is our area, we are more entitled to defend it, and we are more capable of protecting it against every covetous intruder.

Second, we will not allow this or that force to claim the right to preserve our area while it wants to exploit it, and we will not allow anybody to use it as a zone of influence, or as lebensraum, or an an extension to this or that alliance.

Third, we are not an area for the protection of anybody's interests or for defending or attacking anybody, except inasmuch as this serves our interests and the interests of world peace. Nor will we engage in a cold or hot war with which we have nothing to do.

Fourth, we do not exclude from our calculations and considerations the creeping of the Russian bear on the edge of our area, which one of the csars considered one of the world's most important areas, but we do not regard this as an immediate danger as long as there is an actual and existing danger to our territory which is occupied, violated and being colonized and the colonizer is protected by those who claim that they will come to protect us from the Soviet danger. This is foolish talk and illogical.

What is interesting is that the former U.S. defense secretary who left the Pentagon recently said that his country would not intervene against the Soviets if they entered Poland, while on the other hand we hear the West 'saber-rattling" on our territory in order to repel the Soviet threat. We would like to ask here: Why should not this confrontation be in Europe instead of in this area? Is it no longer acceptable to the West to fight another war on its territory, that is in Europe and in America, while it is acceptable to it to fight war on our territory--that is, to let the elephants fight over our heads? Of what interest is this to us, and what will we gain from it except destruction and ruination?

Finally, the Western buildup near our coasts and in our area will be the best incentive for the Soviets to come closer and to whet their aggressive appetite. Since we do not want this and we oppose it, we do not want the West and its concentrations.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN RETURNS FROM MOSCOW, DAMASCUS STOPOVER

LD042150 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Summary] Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad returned to Aden this evening after leading a Yemen Socialist Party delegation to the 26th CPSU Congress in Moscow. On his way back, he stopped off in Damascus where he was received at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad.

The two presidents exchanged views on a number of matters concerning the two countries, the current Arab situation and the proposals submitted by Soviet President Brezhnev on the Middle East problem. They also discussed a number of other issues concerning the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the consolidation of its role.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS BREZHNEV'S PEACE PROPOSALS

LD041910 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Yemeni council for peace and solidarity has declared its support for the proposals announced by the secretary general of the CPSU at the 26th Congress of the party concerning the solving of the Middle East problem and the ensuring of security in the peninsula and Gulf, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

A statement issued by the council today says these proposals constitute a major step toward ensuring international peace and stability and steering the world away from the disaster into which imperialism is seeking to drag mankind. It says that these proposals sincerely express the reality of the Soviet Union's stand alongside the Arab peoples and the peoples of the world and the cause of world peace, and constitute basic and decisive means for guaranteeing solutions in keeping with the interests of the peoples of the region and their right to determine their destiny by themselves and to live in freedom and peace. They also keep the world away from the perils of the cold war policy being pursued by imperialism.

The statement stressed our country's sound course and said the call of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the states of the peninsula, the Gulf and the Horn of Africa for eliminating the imperialist bases categorically proves the correctness and truth of this peaceful policy. The statement again condemned the imperialist policy and military presence in the area led by America and including the Omani-American maneuvers. It appealed to the struggling and peace- and freedom-loving forces to work effectively to resist the American policy and military presence in the area. It called for the carrying out of a campaign of support for the Soviet peace proposals.

AL-BAZ CALLS FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION

NC040949 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)--Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz has affirmed that President as-Sadat's recent visit to Europe was a new important step constituting a thrust toward peace, as this visit led to great results, the most important of which defined a clear European role.

He said: We in Egypt welcome an effective and constructive European role. We want Europe to be active constantly and its role to be assisting and supporting the latest efforts which are being made for achieving a just peace in the Middle East.

About the Third World states' initiatives, Usamah al-Baz said, in an interview published in the magazine AKHIR SA'AH today, that the Third World states are in a position which enables them to move with the Arab sides more than others, since the factor of fear from them or from their trends does not exist, as is the case with other parties. He affirmed that these states generally support the Arab rights more than any other states.

Discussing the qustion of mutual recognition between the Israelis and the Palestinians, under the shadow of a provisional Palestinian government, as proposed by President as-Sadat, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: We consider the idea of mutual recognition to be the best means for persuading the Israelis toward peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians. At the same time it overthrows the Israeli pretext that the PLO must first recognize Israel, its right to exist and Resolution 242. He noted that a mutual recognition means that the PLO or the Palestinian people in general would recognize Israel's right to exist at the same time as Israel recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their homeland.

Speaking about the so-called Jordanian option and its role, Al-Baz said that Egypt rejects and opposes the Jordanian option because it will not solve the problem and believes that it would be at the expense of the principles. He affirmed that Egypt believes that a solution of the Palestine question and conflict lies in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He noted in this connection that the Jordanian option means that we abolish the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and also means that Syria, Egypt or any other Arab states could grant itself the right to speak for the Palestinian people and act for them. This is rejected.

Concerning the warnings by Begin's government against the establishment of a Palestinian state, suggesting that this amounts to the establishment of a Soviet base in the area, Al-Baz said that this was a false claim which Israel has been continuously exploiting for a long time and of which the Arabs regrettably were not aware. He noted that had the command of the Palestinian movement been aware of the seriousness of these allegations it would have refuted them or at least minimized their impact. He said that Israel has continued to exploit this sensitive point with the American people and many others.

Usamah al-Baz rebuffed the Israeli allegations by saying that the Palestinian people as a whole are a peaceful people and that they would confront difficult challenges in the peace stage, or after the establishment of a Palestinian entity, since there would be a comprehensive rebuilding in the economic, political, social, cultural and ideological fields. He added that the majority of the Palestinian people as a whole are moderate people like the Egyptians and that Fatah movement, which represents 80 percent of the PLO, is a moderate organization, not subversive and neither communist nor under the domination of the Soviet Union.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SAID TO REJECT ISRAELI ACCORDS

LD041225 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Mar 81 p 1

[Excerpt] The ratification of a trade agreement between Egypt and Israel stumbled for the second time in a week at the People's Assembly Economic Committee, despite the participation of deputy prime minister and foreign minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Economy Dr Kamal Sulayman Nur ad-Din [as published] in presenting the dimensions of the agreement to the members of the People's Assembly.

During the discussion of the agreement, which lasted several hours, the assembly members agreed that the ordinary Egyptian is completely dissatisfied with Israel's behavior, so that ratification of the agreement must be deferred in order to make Israel understand that the course it is pursuing will not lead to peace. The assembly members also said: "Israel's attitude has made our position more difficult with the Arabs and with those who said from the first that they did not trust Israel's intentions."

Some 11 deputies spoke in the People's Assembly Economic Committee, including 9 deputies from the National Democratic Party. They unanimously opposed ratification of the agreement at present.

Meanwhile, the approval of the air transport agreement between Egypt and Israel also stalled in the People's Assembly Transport and Communications Committee. The members expressed the same reservations as those expressed in the Economic Committee.

ISRAELI CLAIM OF EGYPTIAN INTRANSIGENCE ATTACKED

LD040947 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Feb 81 p 16

[Mustafa Amin column: "Idea"]

[Text] It is strange that the Israeli Foreign Ministry should issue a statement on the occasion of the first anniversary of the exchange of diplomatic representation between Egypt and Israel criticizing Egypt and blaiming it for the slow progress in the normalization of relations between the two countries. It must be that we are the ones who build Egyptian settlements on Israeli territory. It must be that we are the ones who daily threaten not to withdraw from the Israeli territories on schedule. It must be we who oppose the establishment of an autonomous rule in Palestine. It must be we who consider the call for the establishment of a Palestinian state a hostile action undermining the treaty. And it must be we who daily create a crisis or a problem and submit protests.

Or it must be that Begin is the Egyptian prime minister and that the Israeli Foreign Ministry gets angry every now and then because of his daily threats, believing that Egypt is responsible for Begin's statements, which we admit are largely responsible for disturbing relations between the two countries. The one who is fouling the wells is the one who is poisoning them, not the one who is clearing them of poison.

It must be that Egypt is responsible for disturbing relations between the Israeli Government and the Reagan administration and for the tense relations between the Israeli Government and the French Government, between the Israeli Government and the West German Government, and between the Israeli Government and 99 percent of world's governments.

The Israeli official statement says that Israel wished that greater progress had been achieved in the fields of tourism, trade, culture and civil aviation but that Egypt's reluctance and opposition prevented this.

We believe that the ideal way to achieve such progress is to evacuate all the Arab territories that Israel occupied in 1967, to stop the building of settlements, to return Arab Jerusalem to its people, to release the Palestinian Arabs, to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to stop armed attacks on the Palestinian people.

The Egyptians have welcomed peace and rejected capitulation. The Israeli statement's claim that "most of the positive developments were achieved on the basis of Israeli initiatives countered by Egyptian reluctance" is not true. No, the initiative is Egyptian and the reluctance Israeli. The Egyptian initiative began with the president of the republic's visit to the Israeli Knesset. It is Israel which is reluctant to withdraw, to implement the UN resolutions and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

We would like to be even more clear and say that the Egyptian people are not prepared to abandon their Arab brothers for the sake of friendship with Israel or with any other world country. Those who imagine that the meaning of peace is that we fight the Arabs absolutely do not understand the Egyptian people and have not read their history.

LABOR FEDERATION REAFFIRMS REJECTION OF ISRAELIS

LD040953 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Mar 81 p 4

[Amin Taha report: "The Labor Federation Asserts Its Arab Affiliation and Denounces the Israeli Settlements"]

[Text] At its recent meeting the General Assembly of the General Federation of Labor called for the endorsement of the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the production development conference regarding the public sector, for emphasizing the importance of this sector in bolstering the national economy and for not prejudicing the rights of the public sector workers.

The General Assembly also called for the need to put an end to the phenomenon of expansion in the establishment of professional unions and to restrict membership in the professional unions to those engaged in free professions.

Regarding its foreign relations, the General Assembly emphasized the need for the trade union movement to adhere to all the principles related to its positive neutrality and to the recommendations made by the previous general assembly not to belong to any international labor union and not to normalize relations with the "Histradut," the Israeli labor federation, because of its intransigent stand in obstructing the peace process and its recent approval of the implementation of some industrial projects in the settlements built in the occupied territories.

The General Assembly asserted that the Egyptian trade union movement's Arab affiliation will continue and will not change as a result of the present circumstances.

EGYPT FAVORS BREZHNEV MIDEAST CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

LD041753 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Feb 81 pp 1, 3

[AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Egypt Will Attend a Peace Conference Even if It Is Convened in Moscow"]

[Excerpts] What concerns us directly in President Brezhnev's speech at the 26th CPSU Congress is his renewed call for an international conference, Geneva-style, for a settlement in the Middle East.

In pursuance of its effective policy in the area, Egypt welcomes the convening of an international conference such as the one President Brehznev has called for. Egypt is prepared to attend such a conference without hesitation, even if it convenes in Moscow, as long as its objective is to solve the Middle East issue in a manner that will achieve the aspirations of the Arab peoples and find a just solution to the Palestinian issue--the crux of the Middle East conflict.

The immediate question is: Does Egypt agree to attend such a conference without reservations or conditions? The answer to this question is that Egypt supports and bolsters any positive and pragmatic move that will achieve peace by any regional or international group.

The Soviet Union, however, does not really wish to believe that a great event has taken place in the Middle East between two states which had been enemies and fought many wars over a period of 30 years and have now achieved reconciliation willingly and with the approval of their two peoples, governments and legislative councils.

For the sake of history, we tell the Soviet Union that peace can be achieved without the Soviet Union's presence and that the real lesson derived from Camp David is that the decision not to have new wars in the area has been made without the Soviet Union and in its absence. The aim that has been governing the Soviet policy, in the absence of confrontation with a big power in past years, is the need to really return to the area after it was ousted from Egypt. The Kremlin leaders are aware that their presence in South Yemen, Ethiopia or Syria is ineffective and that the Soviet Union was really present in the area when it was in the heart of Cairo.

What are the prospects of convening the conference? And could the tragedy of the Geneva cnference be repeated? In 1977, preparations were being made for a peace conference in Geneva. President as-Sadat was aware at the time that Syria and the Palestinians would not go to the conference as a result of Soviet pressure. This was confirmed to him after signing the Camp David agreement, when Hafiz al-Asad toured the Arab states and, in Saudi Arabia, declared that "we and the Palestinians and the Soviet Union have no intention of going to Geneva. We were only maneuvering."

The fear is that the tragedy will be repeated. The Soviet Union will, as usual, incite the Syrians and the Palestinians to adopt certain stands that will block any positive action. Syria and the PLO were the first to agree to the proposal for convening the conference. Egypt was prepared to attend the Geneva conference, had it not been for the maneuvers. It is now prepared to attend such a conference for the sake of the Palestinian cause.

Egypt has not stopped for a single moment in its attempts to add new dimensions and to promote the continued vitality and justness of the Arab cause in international organizations, in European initiatives and through the efforts it is exerting to make Israel abandon its negative behavior represented by the annexation of East Jerusalem, the building of settlements, the suppressive measures in the West Bank and Gaza and the aggression in south Lebanon--acts that are contrary to Camp David.

Egypt will continue to consult with the full partner in the Camp David agreement. This could take place after the Israeli election and at successive meetings between the American President, President Anwar as-Sadat and the Israeli prime minister who emerges after the election. This will become clear next week when U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig pays his first official visit to the Middle East states. We are for peace. This is a principled option, and we will go to Geneva or to Moscow for its sake.

AL-AHRAM VIEWS DETENTE, SOVIET AFGHANISTAN PRESENCE

NC050736 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the heading "Afghanistan Between Brezhnev and Reagan," AL-AHRAM says in its editorial today: It is not in our interest as developing states that the cold war should replace detente between the two superpowers. But at the same time we do not think that the detente which we aspire for between the two superpowers is the detente of achieving gains by either one of them at the expense of other states or the detente of infiltration, the establishment of bases and the invasion of small states as the Soviet Union has done in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union violated all traditions and invaded one of the poorest states in the world, and 15 months later its forces, which are equipped with the most murderous and destructive weapons, including internationally banned ones, are still far from achieving their aims in Afghanistan.

The paper continues: It was natural that U.S. President Ronald Reagan should ask Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev that the Soviet forces first withdraw from Afghanistan before the United States responds to the Soviet president's call for a summit conference between the heads of the two superpowers. It was natural that the U.S. President should ask Brezhnev to prove to the world his true intentions in making this invitation, which, he said, aimed at establishing peace. If peace is indivisible the Soviet forces should, naturally, withdraw from Afghanistan and this small nation, like all other nations, should be left free to determine its future without foreign custodianship.

The Afghan people did not request this custodianship, and they are able to defend themselves. The steadfastness of this nation in the face of the Soviet Nazi power confirms the tenacity which this great nation possesses.

Concluding its article, AL-AHRAM asks: Will Brezhnev really do something to prove the honesty of Soviet intentions or will the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continue as constant proof of the ugly Soviet face?

FRENCH OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY TALKS

NC050922 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] The French deputy minister of industry and energy and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this morning on a 1-week visit to Egypt. During this visit the French delegation will meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister 'Izz ad-Din Hilal and Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abaza. The French delegation will also hold supplementary talks regarding the nuclear cooperation agreement which was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Paris during President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the French capital last month.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW MILITARY COMMANDERS 4 MAR

NC041540 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)--Armed Forces Supreme Commander President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued decrees on 11 new appointments in the armed forces. These decrees provide for the following:

1. Staff Maj Gen Samir Yusri 'Awad is appointed head of the Military Research Board. He was previously director of the Higher War Academy.

2. Staff Maj Gen Muhsin 'Abd al-Fattah Sidqi is appointed director of the Engineers Corps and acting chairman of the Armed Forces Engineering Board. He was previously head of the Armed Forces Major Projects Branch.

3. Staff Maj Gen Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghafur al-'Arabi is appointed armed forces chief of operations. He was previously commander of the Second Field Army.

4. Staff Maj Gen Ibrahim Fayiz Sabri is appointed head of the Armed Forces Signal Corps. He was previously chief of staff of that corps.

5. Staff Maj Gen Ahmad Salah ad-Din 'Abd al-Hamid San'd is appointed commander of the Second Field Army.

6. Staff Maj Gen 'Ali Sa'id Ahmad is appointed as head of the Armed Forces Supply and Reinforcement Corps. He was previously a professor at the Nasir High Academy.

7. Maj Gen Ahmad Lufti Taha Ahmad Mansur is appointed head of the Central Department for Major Construction Projects in the Armed Forces. He was previously deputy head of that department.

8. Maj Gen as-Sayyid Ahmad Nasir is appointed commander of the Western Military District. He previously held the post of deputy director of the National Defense College.

9. Maj Gen Muhammad Najati Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz is appointed chief of staff of the Western Military District. He previously held the post of a divsional commander.

10. Maj Gen 'Ali Fu'ad Muhammad is appointed director of the Armed Forces Central Water Department. He previously held the post of chief of staff of the department.

11. Maj Gen Husni Muhammad Wahbah is appointed director of the Military Works and Accommodation [Al-iwa'] Department. He previously held the post of chief of staff of the department.

New Chief of Staff

NC041150 Cairo MENA In Arabic 1129 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat today issued a decree appointing Chief of Operations of the Armed Forces Staff Maj Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi Hafiz chief of staff of the armed fordes and promoting him to the rank of lieutenant general.

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR ARAB 'POPULAR CONFERENCE'

LD041037 Abu Dhabi AL-USBU'I in Arabic 26 Feb 81 p 5

["Special" report from Cairo: "Egyptian Opposition Warns Against Exacerbating Danger of Arab Conflicts"]

[Excerpts] Leaders of the Egyptian opposition held a press conference last night in which they warned against the danger of exacerbating Arab conflicts and called for a popular conference for the Arab liberation factions, so as to defuse the conflicts and concentrate efforts to confront Israel.

The press conference was held in the office of Counsellor Mumtaz Nassar, member of the People's Assembly, who read a statement in the name of the Egyptian National Coalition on the occasion of the first anniversary of the so-called normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. The following is text of the statement:

Today a whole year has passed since the enemy's official diplomatic presence was established in Cairo and since the so-called normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel began, in implementation of the Camp David accords and the bilateral peace treaty, under the protection of strong security measures by the regime and the umbrella of so-called military facilities for the United States.

What was the outcome of this year? Under the Camp David accords and the peace treaty the regime promised to reduce military spending and provide the means to create prosperity, so as to put an end to the increasing public hardships. The regime fixed 1980 as the year to achieve this target. But when 1980 came military expenditure, according to the government's budget, reached levels unprecedented in the country's history. This increase in expenditure prompts us to ask a legitimate question regarding the real objective at which the government is aiming, in view of the assertion by President as-Sadat that the October war was the last war with Israel on the one hand and the written U.S. pledge to Israel guaranteeing the implementaion of the peace treaty on the other. The cost of living also reached such a level in 1980 as to make it the year in which the economic crisis came to a head, with the outbreak of the bread crisis first and the meat crisis later. Under the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel the regime promised the strengthening of Egypt's political and economic independence, but instead pursued a path leading to serious undermining of the country's political independence as a result of concluding the so-called military facilities agreements with the United States, which President Anwar as-Sadat, in an interview with Norwegian television, described as "a million times stronger than military bases." Economic independence has also been undermined as a result of open door trade, which is tending to liquidate the public sector and strike at national industry and is increasing debts to which strings are attached to $20 billion.

Under the Camp David agreement and peace with Israel the regime pledged to pursue a path that would enhance Egypt's effectiveness and leadership within the Arab nation, the Islamic world, the Third World and the international arena and to build peace and stability in the area. But with the arrival of 1980 Egypt's isolation from the Arab nation and the Islamic world increased; in the international arena it is counted as a country aligned with the United States and subservient to its global strategy. As a result the area, with all the conflicts in it, is far from stable and secure and its peoples' interests are endangered by both cold and hot wars.

Under the Camp David agreement and the peace with Israel the regime promised to pursue a road to a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent state of their own on their national soil.

All this boiled down to a separate peace treaty, which is extremely risky and weighs heavily on the independence and interests of the Egyptian people and the future of the area. In the meantime Israel continues to build more settlements in the Arab territories and has issued a "basic law" annexing Jerusalem as its eternal capital. Israel is also pursuing daily hostilities and a daily annihilation campaign against the Palestinian people inside the country, the PLO bases and the Lebanese people. Israel also refuses, even in the context of Camp David accords, to establish a so-called autonomy for the Palestinians on their national soil.

Although the Egyptian people deeply appreciate the Arab masses' sympathy with and response to their militant and uncompromising struggle against Israel, the U.S. military facilities and the Camp David policy, objectivity and belief in the common Arab destiny and in the national battle against colonialism, Zionism, backwardness and division prompt us to warn frankly that serious negative attitudes have been building up recently in the Arab arena following the conclusion of the Camp David accords and Egypt's departure from the Arab arena. These attitudes undermine Arab efforts to achieve the unity of Arab action that is indispensable in confronting the contemporary Zionist-colonialist onslaught on the level of both the popular masses and the Arab regimes. This situation is likely to lead to inter-Arab disputes and conflicts' taking precedence over the Arab nation's principal struggle against its enemies and to the causes of division and backwardness that have accumulated over the years, leading to the weakening of national consciousness of a common destiny.

The Arab nation today finds itself faced with a number of important resolutions issued by the Baghdad, Tunis and Amman summits, which remained ineffective and confined to paper without real efforts being made to carry them out. The few resolutions that have been implemented remain only formal and ineffective, such as the resolution to support the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the creation of economic integration between the Arab countries. Some other resolutions were implemented haphazardly and did not differentiate between the interests and rights of the Egyptian people and the attitudes of the Egyptian Government.

In view of our sense of responsibility in the historical confrontation in these complex circumstances--responsibility based a national and scientific viewpoint--we are not unaware that the present Arab state of affairs is characterized by the existence of political, economic and social differences of various degrees between Arab regimes, which of necessity generate inter-Arab conflicts and disputes. However, proceeding from the same responsibility we believe that Arab conflict with Zionism and colonialism is a matter of life and death for the Arab nation, regardless of the ideological, political or social differences between various factions and movements. For this reason there is a need for joint action, which is an urgent national task, to suppress the Arab action against the number-one enemy of the Arab nation.

We in the depth of the Egyptian arena see the cause of Palestine as a cause of Egypt and the cause of Egypt as a cause of the Arab nation. We have infinite confidence in the militancy of the Arab nation and in the ability of the masses to forge a unified action cabable of undertaking the historical confrontation. At the same time we place on record our great anxiety over this continuing division and quarrel between the Arab regimes and the Arab liberation movements in general and declare that we will devote all our efforts, together with those of all the Arab national movements in general and the Palestinian revolution in particular, represented by the PLO, to ending the present deteriorating Arab situation.

Proceeding from this premise we call for the convening of a national people's conference rallying around the Palestinian revolution, which represents the epicenter of historical interaction with all its dimensions. No party to this conference should have the right to expel another national party because of ideological or political differences. We suggest that the conference should seek to do the following:

First, to defuse the peripheral Arab conflicts and to curb their negative effects on the development of events so that the basic national struggle against the Zionist and colonialist enemy will be placed above all other things in all fields and arenas.

Second, to intercede with the aim of halting the Iraq-Iran war with a view to preserving the common interests of both countries vis-a-vis colonialism, Zionism and international monopolies, particularly oil monopolies, as well as preserving the resources of the Iranian Islamic revolution and Iraq's pan-Arab status and weight for the task of direct confrontation with the common enemy.

Third, to seek to awaken the Arab masses through securing their democratic freedoms and rights and insuring minimum social justice so as to thwart all the existing and potential dangers of Camp David, particularly following the new U.S. proposal on the so-called Jordanian option instead of the Palestinian option which is represented by the PLO--the sole legitimate, actual and official representative of the Palestinian people.

Fourth, to call for an extraordinary Arab summit to follow the unified action by the Arab masses to endorse the resolutions adopted by the masses; conference and work according to the agenda and priorities proposed by it, in order to create a unified Arab stand responsible for and capable of staging an all-out conventional and unconventional confrontation and using all military, economic, oil and financial potentials.

AMMAN REPORTS KING HUSAYN, SADDAM 3 MAR MEETING

JN041838 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The Jordanian side chaired by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side chaired by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a round of official talks in Baghdad last night which lasted for 2 hours. The two sides made comprehensive analysis of the development of events through which the Arab homeland has passed, and is still passing, since the convocation of the 11th Arab summit conference in Amman. The two sides also evaluated the march of inter-Arab relations and their impact on Pan-Arab causes. They also reviewed the Arab situation in view of the international developments.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn gave a detailed review of the good military situation on the battlefront with Iran, underlining the victories and the accomplishments of the valiant Iraqi forces in restoring the Iraqi right in the Iraqi land and waters.

The two sides also discussed the strong brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries. They expressed their complete satisfaction with the continued and confident development of relations in favor of the two Arab countries and in the interest of joint pan-Arab action.

MEDIATION COMMITTEE RETURNS, HOLDS MEETING 4 MAR

JN041745 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--The Islamic good offices committee left Baghdad this evening after a 2-hour visit to Iraq in the framework of its efforts to find a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that any solution which does not take into account the reasons of the war, including Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab and its lands, cannot be a just and logical solution. During the meeting between the Iraqi side led by President Saddam Husayn and the good offices committee led by Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the president said that there cannot be any withdrawal before Iran's recognition of these rights and before Iraq's acquisition of practical and legal guarantees.

President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's complete commitment to what it has announced and to the essence of the Islamic Conference resolutions on ceasing fire and holding negotiations in order to reach an agreement that guarantees the two sides' legitimate rights under the aegis of the good offices committee.

During the meeting the committee conveyed its proposals to the Iraqi side.

The Iraqi side to the talks comprised 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minsiter; Na'im Haddad, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member and transport and communications minister; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary and acting chief of the president's office; and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs.

The good offices committee side comprised Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Senegalese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Moustapha Niasse, Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Rithaduddeen and Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference Organization secretary general.

President Saddam Husayn was at the head of those who received and then saw off the chairman and members of the good offices committee.

The committee visited Iraq for 2 days on 2 March and held three meetings with the Iraqi side, during which a review was made of the Iraqi and Iranian stands as well as the committee's proposals to solve the conflict between the two countries. During these meetings President Saddam Husayn told the committee that Iraq would agree to cease-fire if Iran does. He also said that Iraq would continue its support for all efforts aimed at finding a honorable and just solution of the conflict with Iran.

The good offices committee was formed during the convocation of the third Islamic Conference summit. It was entrusted with the task of finding a solution of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict in accordance with just and honorable bases.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 265

JN041655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--The valiant Iraqi forces killed 93 of the racist Persian enemy during battles in all operations sectors yesterday evening and today. Communique No 265 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening added that our forces destroyed eight enemy infantry positions, two tanks, two field guns and other equipment. It said that Iraqi planes bombed enemy oil installations in (Malawi), northeast of Dehloran, and destroyed and burned a large pumping station, eight large fuel storage tanks and a number of oil pipelines. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 265 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to strike at the Magian racist Persian enemy and to destroy his forces in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units clashed with an enemy force in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and forced it to flee, leaving behind 13 dead. An enemy observation post was also destroyed in the same region.
B. Six were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Two were killed and two infantry positions opposite our positions were destroyed in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Our units opened fire on enemy concentrations in the Mehran region, killing 34 and destroying 1 vehicle, 1 field gun and 1 observation post.
E. An enemy concentration was sighted in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. Our forces opened fire with artillery and mortars and forced the enemy to retreat with 20 dead. Our forces also destroyed two infantry positions, one tank and two excavators in the same region.
F. One infantry position and one vehicle were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
G. Our units engaged enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region, killing 18 and destroying 3 infantry positions, 1 tank, 1 field gun and 1 excavator.
H. Our valiant air force planes today raided enemy oil installations in (Malawi), northeast of Dehloran, with direct hits and destroyed and burned a large pumping station, eight fuel storage tanks and a number of pipelines. Our planes returned safely to the homeland.

Accordingly, known enemy losses total 93 dead, 8 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 2 vehicles, 2 field guns, 3 excavators, 2 observation posts, 1 large pumping station, 8 large fuel storage tanks and a number of pipelines.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, four vehicles and two rocket launchers were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 March 1981

AIR FORCE TO HAVE FRANCO-GERMAN SAM MISSILES

LD041011 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Mar 81 p 30

[By Jacques Isnard]

[Text] Iraq has decided to adopt the Roland air defense missile designed by the National Industrial Aerospace Company for the defense of its air force bases. French sources decline to indicate the number of weapons systems ordered by the Iraqis, following an agreement in principle whose detailed clauses are still being discussed by the two countries.

Since its conflict with Iran began, Iraq has learned the initial lessons of this war, which is now becoming bogged down but which has enabled it to observe the vulnerability of its bases to low-altitude air attack and even to a one-target mission by a single attacking plane.

The Iraqi Air Force has chosen the Poland surface-to-air missile, a joint French-West German product, for the short-range protection of its installations. This supersonic missile, with a range of 7 km, is designed as an automatic firing unit mounted on a tank chassis for the protection of mobile targets--this is how it is used in France (with the AMX-30 tank), the FRG (with the SPZ tank) and the United States (with the M109 tank)--or under cover, on a tractor-drawn truck or trailer, for the defense of fixed points. Against an assilant, detected either by an optical sight or by radar, Roland's reaction time is around 6 to 8 seconds for the first engagement and 2 to 6 seconds for following fire against the same or a second target.

The deal between France and Iraq will be carried out in stages. The initial requirements expressed by the client are for a total of 200 weapon-launching systems: A launching system comprises a vehicle carrying several reloadable tubes, together with its electronic equipment.

According to French industrialists the Iraqi Army could adopt a comparable but different arsenal for the air defense of its armored and mechanized combat forces. Iraq apparently does not wish to be dependent on an exclusive supplier for such an arms system. In this case the competition now seems to be between another French supplier--the Thomson-CSF and Matra Companies involved in the manufacture of the Crotale missile--and the British Aerospace Company, with its Rapier surface-to-air weapon system.

It will be noted, however, that, if the Iraqi Army decides to choose the Crotale missile, Iraq will have chosen an air defense system which is the reverse of the system adopted by France for its own defense needs. Indeed, in France it is the air force which has ordered the Crotale system for its bases and the army which has acquired the Roland system for its forward-based armored units. The French Navy for its part has chosen a "navalized" version of the Crotale surface-to-air missile.

Indeed, in exports there is internal French competition between the Roland and Crotale missiles, and in overseas markets this rivalry is often settled by intervention by the French Government which, for political reasons related to particular clients, might decide to give the advantage to one or the other of the potential suppliers, unless the client shows a marked preference.

Thus, to take a few examples, the Crotale missile already has clients in the Near East (Libya, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi), despite the Iraqi choice in favor of the Roland missile, and the Latin American market is also divided between the two missiles (with the Roland in Brazil and the Crotale in Chile).

This rivalry could soon be illustrated again with Saudi Arabia. For the air defense of its armored combat forces, comprising mainly large numbers of French AMX-30 tanks, Saudi Arabia initially agreed to finance the development of a special version of the Crotale missile, named the Shahine, and finally ordered F4 billion worth of these surface-to-air missiles. It is a weapon system which has six launch pads per transporting vehicle instead of four for the French Air Force's Crotale missiles.

The Iraqi preference for the Roland could prompt the Saudi authorities to complete their low-and very low-altitude air defense system with batteries of Roland missiles.

ALIF BA' MAGAZINE COMPILES IRANIAN WAR LOSSES

JN041418 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--The Persian enemy lost during the last six months of the Iraq-Iran war 19,331 militarymen, according to a statistic published here today. The Baghdad weekly magazine ALIF BA' said that the enemy also lost 452 warplanes and 111 helicopter gunships. 417 warplanes were downed over the battlefront and 146 were shot down over Iraqi cities, during Iranian warplanes raids at the beginning of the war, the magazine said. The statistic, made according to the military communiques of the high command of the Iraqi Armed Forces, pointed out that the daily average of enemy life casualties was 107 and the monthly average was 3,222. It said that the fifth month of the war witnessed the highest figure on enemy casualties when the enemy lost 6,151 men killed in its so-called counter-offensive.

Enemy material losses, according to the statistic, were 1,355 tanks, 1,431 vehicles, 673 artillery field guns, 279 troop carriers and 117 missile launching pads. Iraqi forces captured during the battles in warfronts 258 tanks, 233 vehicles, 84 artillery field guns, 26 missile launching pads and a number of mortars, the statistic added.

The magazine said in spite of the fact that six months have been elapsed on the war with the participation of half a million fighters in the front out of 14 million population, the life in Iraq is going on normally with strong willingness to implement development projects in various fields.

INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS JORDANIAN COUNTERPART

JN041139 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--Culture and Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim met here today with Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, who has been visiting Iraq since yesterday. They discussed the strengthening of information cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries in the service of the Arab nation's issues.

LEBANESE MINISTER, DELEGATION MEET OIL MINISTER

JN041032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, met here today with Lebanese Industry and Oil Minister Muhammad Yusuf Baydun and his delegation. Oil relations and the promotion of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the service of common interests and the Arab nation's interests were discussed at the meeting. The Lebanese minister arrived in Baghdad last night heading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

BAGHDAD VIEWS IRAN'S REACTION TO MEDIATION MISSION

NC041330 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Dear Iranian listeners, please pay attention: The subject now is peace. It concerns efforts to stop the cursed war machinery, a war which has caused great destruction in Iran, because Iran's leaders intended to export something to Iraq which they themselves called "Khomeyni's Islamic revolution." It concerns a war whose flame was finally lit when ships were prevented from moving in the Shatt al-'Arab waters and the flame which could be seen for 6 months on the refineries and oil installations of Iran whose leaders intended to close down Shatt al-'Arab.

Iran's leaders once again did not show any willingness to end the war when they met with the committee appointed by the At-Ta'if conference to solve differences between Iran and Iraq. Iraq's President Saddam Husayn told the members of the good offices committee that "we agree with a cease-fire if the Tehran leaders agree with it." The Iraqi leader, who has repeatedly proposed a halt to the war and that peace talks be held and who has always taken the first step toward this but who has been met with the cold or hostile reply of Tehran's leaders, expressed at the meeting with members of the good offices committee Iraq's strong wish for the establishment of peace between the two countries and stressed that "we want Iraq and Iran to have relations based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and rights." His remarks were coupled with a reiteration of the fact that "if Tehran's regime respects the sovereignty and right of the Iraqi nation which is part of the Arab 'umma, this respect will be reciprocated by Iraq in the same way that we implemented similar principles in our relations with other Islamic countries and governments and other countries of the world."

Dear Iranian listeners, please pay attention. These remarks constituted a message of peace. It is worthy to explain, as we are two nations, two neighbors and two correligionist countries, that this is possibly the last chance to halt the war and that it should be cherished, since the two nations of Iraq and Iran have, for centuries, lived next to each other in full happiness and without any hostility and harshness. Therefore, in order to wash our hands of the bloody war which has been continuing in Iranian territory for 6 months and, of course, of the initiator or initiators which you and the world have recognized--since in these 2 years they have had an aggressive face--at this last chance, the efforts made should be used so that peace can once again open its arms to the two nations, two nations which have never before warred with each other.

CABINET DISCUSSES ISRAELI AGGRESSION, SECURITY

NC041336 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Today at 1145 the Cabinet held its weekly session under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. The prime minister and the ministers attended the meeting with the exception of the Ministers Michel Iddih, Muhammad Usuf Baydun, Dr Nazih al-Bizri and Mustafa Darniqah--who are currently abroad. The meeting continued until 1315, at the end of which the Cabinet's secretary general, Dr 'Umar Musayki, gave the following official information:

The Cabinet discussed the general situation in Lebanon, including the security situation and the recurring Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The Cabinet also discussed social issues.

LEBANESE-SYRIAN SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN DAMASCUS

NC050712 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has confirmed that the summit conference between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad will be held on 10 March in Damascus.

AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PLO, SYRIA

LD041713 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABIC WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 2-8 Mar 81 pp 14-18

[Interview granted by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to Nihad al-Mashnug in Beirut--date not specificed].

[Excerpt] [Question] The general impression is that the relations with the Syrians and the PLO are not clear. What is the basis of these relations and what is required, from a Lebanese viewpoint, to put them on a firm footing? From a geographical and military standpoint it is impossible to ask the PLO to implement the agreements [with the Lebanese Government]. There must be a political or maybe a military alternative for the establishment of advanced relations.

[Answer] My dear sir, what is required first of all is confidence. Confidence between the two sides must be strengthened and there should be mutual understanding between the two sides regarding one another's needs. There are issues that we as Lebanese must understand, namely that the Palestinians must continue their struggle for their cause. We in Lebanon should not deprive them of this struggle, which in the final analysis is our struggle. Whatever victory the Palestinan revolution achieves will in the final analysis be a victory for us in Lebanon, not only for the sake of the Palestinian cause, which I call our cause because it is the cause of the Arabs, to whom we belong, but also in order to terminate the existing situation on our Lebanese territory, which has caused further destruction. If our Arab brethren have more than one reason for supporting the Palestine problem, we in Lebanon have a thousand and one reasons for supporting and backing it. We are one of the countries whose territory and waters Israel covets. We are not saying this for the first time today; Israel's wisemen and ancient philosophers and Israeli planners have announced such plans. We cannot be like an ostrich and bury our heads in the sand so that we do not see what Israel is planning.

[Question] Certain Lebanese parties say that there can be no objection to supporting the PLO politically and internationally but there are objections to the PLO's encroachment on the state's political, geographical and military sovereignty.

[Answer] This is what prompts us to advocate reconciling our Lebanese demands with the Palestinian revolution's demands. This reconciliation formula should succeed because it is the correct path to sound relations between us.

[Question] What have you done so far in this direction?

[Answer] When there are preconceived ideas in an atmosphere of mistrust, trust will have no leg to stand on in the first place. We are now seeking, in collaboration with the PLO, to lay down specific ideas. It is from continuing contacts that such ideas could emerge.

[Question] Have you been able to create an atmosphere of trust between the PLO and the authorities?

[Answer] No. I myself in my contacts have not yet reached the point of creating such an atmosphere. However, I consider that what has been done so far has succeeded in creating an atmosphere of mutual trust so far as the government as a whole is concerned. The government consists of institutes which complement one another and there must be confidence in all of them. We would like, for example, to see a time when the resistance feels that the Lebanese Army is an army backing the state and not any army aiming to achieve a certain plan. We would also like all our legitimate forces to feel that the resistance is very anxious to respect the Lebanese sovereignty and does not want to detract from it.

[Question] What about relations with the Syrians?

[Answer] You probably still recall what President al-Asad said to me as we said goodbye--that he fully supports the Lebanese Government because he considers this to be support for the fraternal Lebanese people.

Of course, there are many incidents that cause us problems. Instead of looking at these incidents in their true light some people distort them in a manner that harms relations. It remains to be said that I am among those who believe in the need to preserve relations with sisterly Syria and to maintain with it the highest degree of coordination and mutual trust.

The two countries are twins, their security is interlinked and their fate is common. So at the least there should be constant coordination for the sake of common interests and the special relations between the two countries.

PRESIDENT SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO BREZHNEV

JN041311 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 81

["Text" of congratulations cable sent by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev on his reelection as CPSU general secretary--date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your reelection as CPSU general secretary, I have the pleasure of sending, in my name and on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Command, my sincerest congratulations for the trust given you by the 26th CPSU Congress.

We wish you success in your great and important responsibilities. We are confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties and countries will continue to grow in the interest of our two peoples; that under your leadership and the leadership of your comrades--the members of the party's Central Committee--the Soviet Union will continue to achieve successes in all fields; and that the Soviet Union will continue its principled support for the peoples' struggle and the world's liberation movements and will continue to bolster the policy of international detente, whose purpose is to spread peace and justice in all parts of the world.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

JN041935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] At 1830 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general. The discussion revolved around the general situation in the area. George Hawi also briefed President al-Asad on the 26th CPSU Congress, which he attended on behalf of the Lebanese Communist Party.

PDRY CHAIRMAN MAKES STOPOVER ON RETURN FROM MOSCOW

Arrival Report

JN041231 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and his delegation arrived at Damascus airport from Moscow at 1130 today. He was welcomed at the airport by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad; Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; several ministers; and the PDRY Embassy staff in Damascus. He was also received by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

After embracing President Hafiz al-Asad and shaking hands with those who received him, Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and President Hafiz al-Asad and the members of the Syrian and PDRY sides proceeded to the airport hotel, where a meeting was held between the two leaders. The ministers from both sides attended the meeting. At 1215 the two leaders held a private meeting.

Airport Meeting

JN041410 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)--President Hafiz al-Asad and Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad held a meeting at the airport hotel here today which was attended by the two sides' ministers. The two leaders reviewed the situation in the Arab arena in general and the latest developments.

The PDRY leader briefed President al-Asad on the CPSU 26th Congress and the contacts conducted on the periphery of the congress. The two leaders also reviewed the most significant international issues.

President al-Asad hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The PDRY leader's delegation, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and several ministers were invited to the banquet.

Departure Report

JN041719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpts] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and his delegation left Damascus for Aden this afternoon. Abu Bakr Bazid, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party and member of the delegation that is accompanying President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, left for Tripoli today with a joint message from President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution.

BADRAN'S NCC SPEECH 'INSTIGATION OF SEDITION'

JN041608 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a dramatic setting, Mudar Badran, King Husayn's prime minister, delivered a speech to the Jordanian National Consultative Council the day before yesterday, attacking Syria, its system and policy. It is not new for Badran, who occupied a leading position in the gang of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agents in Jordan, to attack and fabricate falsehoods against Syria. Indeed, in the course of carrying out the duties dictated by his job, Badran persisted in sabotaging Jordanian-Syrian relations and the achievements of coordination and integration between the two fraternal states.

Badran also moved from the stage of secret plotting and participation in the implementation of the Zionist-Imperialist plot against Syria transforming Jordan into a den for plots and a camp for recruiting, training, arming and financing the gangs of murderers and criminals who are in the service of the enemies of Syria and the Arab nation to the stage of blatantly carrying out provocations and leading a campaign of hatred against Syria.

What was new in Mudar Badran's speech the day before yesterday is that he moved from making fabrications, distorting truths, spreading hatred and creating differences on secondary and peripheral issues to a kind of open instigation of sedition against Syria and an attempt to fabricate sectarian, religious and regional differences in Syria, using a method that is not new to imperialist and Zionist intelligence circles; namely, fabricating events, forging history and fawning upon groups and sects, which they want to deceive by making them victims of the deceitful plot being concocted by imperialist-Zionist intelligence circles.

What is also new in Badran's speech is that, despite all attempts to simulate objectivity and civility, he descended into the mire of foulness and impudence. Indeed, he even fell short of the bare minimum requirements for the art of oration, requirements which those assuming responsibilities and appearing in forums ought to cultivate.

Such degeneration does not harm Syria. However, it reveals the level to which U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agents have stooped in their suicidal and barbaric attack on steadfast Syria.

Nor is Syria harmed when a U.S. intelligence agent calls for aborting Syria's pan-Arab role and policy, which is hostile to imperialism and Zionism. Greater people than Mudar Badran have called for aborting Syria's policy and role. However, they have fallen while Syria has remained; they were defeated while Syria remained; they disappeared from the arena or are expected to disappear soon. Yet Syria has remained the bastion of the Arab nationalist liberation movement and of adamant Arab rejection of all kinds of subservience or capitulation to the United States and Israel.

Whoever believes that Mudar Badran has descended into the mire of foulness and and impudence, resorted to abuse and is steeped in instigation and spreading hatred of his own free will is mistaken. Such degeneration is in demand at this particular stage. It is demanded by King Husayn and the masters of the game of capitulation and the Jordanian option in Washington and Tel Aviv. King Husayn, who can find nothing to say about his secret meetings with Moshe Dayan and other Zionist politicians, is in dire need of a fabricated uproar and peripheral differences. He is in dire need of an escalated campaign of hatred and provocations against Syria to distract Jordanian public opinion and divert its attention from his betrayal of the nation's issues, secret plotting meetings with the Israelis and speedy progress toward an open participation in the imperialist-Zionist process to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

Anwar as-Sadat preceded King Husayn in adopting this method of fabricating lies and provocations and resorting to foulness and impudence in order to divert attention from his treason, subservience and agentry.

Yet despite the methods invented and used by King Husayn to distract people and divert their attention from his deeds, Jordanian and Syrian citizens are well aware that the difference between Syria and King Husayn's regime centers on a majors, rather than peripheral and secondary issues; namely, the stand on the Palestinian issue--the Arab nation's pan-Arab issue--adherence to the Arab summit resolutions, the Arab Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and the PLO's right to be the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative; and the stand on subservience to U.S. imperialist and Zionist schemes to annex occupied Arab territories.

Just as Nuri as-Sa'id, the agent monarchy in Iraq and the Baghdad pact fell; just as well the agent rulers who dared to extend their hands to the enemy fell; so shall every regime following the path of agentry and treason fall.

ALGERIA

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ALGIERS 4 MAR

LD050046 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Algiers yesterday evening carrying a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was welcomed on arrival at the airport by Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia and the Syrian ambassador to Algeria. The Syrian foreign minister said on arrival that he will hold talks with President Chadli Bendjedid on the latest developments in the Arab situation. He added that he will also hold talks with brother Mohamed Ben Yahia.

ALGERIAN DELEGATE RETURNS FROM CPSU CONGRESS

LD042116 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Said Mazouzi, member of the FLN Central Committee Political Bureau, returned to Algiers today from Moscow where he represented Algeria at the 26th CPSU Congress. Mr Mazouzi in a brief statement stressed the importance of the achievements of the CPSU as reflected in the reports presented and the resolutions adopted at the congress. He added that the congress provided an opportunity to strengthen the friendship existing between the two countries and parties through the political talks which took place.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SAID TO BE ON U.S. 'HIT LIST'

LD040959 London AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in English 27 Feb 81 p 2

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] In past issues of AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR we have commented on the Western press response to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, emphasising the journalistic hysteria that seems to characterise reporting about events concerning Libya. No day goes by without some mention of Libya in the Western press.

The latest hysterical reports appeared in the American music magazine, ROLLING STONE, which contains a deeply offensive and slanderous article by Charles Kaiser titled a plague of Libyans. The article purports to prove that 'the Patina of civility is very thin' among the Libyans and beneath that 'you have a hostile Berber' to whom 'life is very cheap'.

The racist implication is that Libyans are in essence beasts and the assassination of counter-revolutionary forces is merely evidence of their total disregard for human life and the uncivilised nature of a people that would not hesitate to eliminate enemies of the revolution.

There seems to be a pattern to the series of bad press notices accorded to the Libyan people. As the only nation to publicly trumpet its political principles and its determination to fight imperialism, Zionism and racism it is not surprising that this uncompromising position has attracted so much flak. It is just a cheap ploy to sully the name of the revolution and belittle the determination to fight against injustice and exploitation.

But nothing will deter us from safeguarding our revolution as threats from within and without must be neutralised so that the opposition to the major concerns of the Jamahiriyah--the liberation of Palestine and the eradication of Zionism and imperialism--can be developed without unnecessary hindrances and tangential struggle like coping with traitors and quislings.

The allegations contained in this latest slander against the Libyan masses claim that the leader of the revolution was a former CIA agent. If this was not so serious, it would be laughable, but it just shows the depth that the slanderers are prepared to stoop to in order to denigrate the great achievements of the Al-Fatah revolution.

The writer claims that two ex-CIA agents stationed in Tripoli made regular payments to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi while they were stationed there. To substantiate this a dubious relationship was manufactured between former CIA agent Frank Terpil and the leader of the revolution. But the question must be asked, what would the CIA gain from brother Al-Qadhdhafi on their payroll when the target of their dirty tricks was the leader himself? Were they trying to get him to commit suicide? What can the Libyans gain from this connection?

Regular payments cannot be the carrot for this so-called relationship. With Libya's massive oil wealth, who is really the donor? The lives of the masses are satisfactory and as such are not dependent on welfare payments from the American CIA. Nobody is in need, as the very fundamentals of the Libyan revolution presumes that need will be eradicated. What can be thus gained by this handout of meagre sums by the dirty tricks department of the Americans? Nothing.

But the answer to these questions and the reasons for printing this article becomes more obvious as one reads the conclusion of the piece. The Reagan administration was too timid to do, namely put the leader of the Libyan revolution on his hit list. As the article says: 'Reagan could see an Al-Qadhdhafi "hit" as a useful lesson for other former client states that have strayed too far from the folds of American orthodoxy.'

The smokescreen of the now celebated 'hit list' and the new tale of CIA alliances, however, cannot hide the true face of the Reagan administration as it seeks to prepare the world for its intensified counter-attack on behalf of the capitalists and imperialists the world over.

MAURITANIA

FRENCH OFFICIAL SEES PRIME MINISTER, DEPARTS

Prime Minister's Audience

AB031518 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Text] The French secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, who arrived in the country yesterday, was received in audience this morning by the prime minister and head of government. The audience took place in the presence of the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Mohamed el Mokhtar Ould Zamel; the Mauritanian ambassador to France, Mr Abdelkader Kamara; and Mr Maurice Courage, the French ambassador to Nouakchott.

The French delegation had earlier held talks with a Mauritanian delegation led by Mr Mokhtar Ould Zamel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Also Mr Olivier Stirn yesterday met several Mauritanian officials. In a declaration to the national press the French secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation stated: Mauritania and France have maintained close relations for a long time and it is normal for me to hold consultations with the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation on all international issues and on bilateral cooperation between France and Mauritania in order to promote the best cooperation possible. Also, he said he would assess our needs and get to know the problems facing our country.

Departure Report

AB041601 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Mr Olivier Stirn, French secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, has ended his 2-day visit to Mauritania. He was seen off at the airport by Mr Mokhtar Ould Zamel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. During his stay in Nouakchott the French secretary of state was received in audience by the prime minister and head of government, Mr Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara. He has also visited the key (?economic) installations in the capital. Before his departure, he announced the joint decision to hold a meeting of the Mauritania-France Joint Commission before the end of the year.

OFFICIAL ARRESTED AS PRO-LIBYA CONSPIRATOR FREED

AB032154 Paris AFP in French 1847 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 3 Mar (AFP)--Mr Ahmed Baba Miske, former member of the Polisario Front Political Bureau and former Mauritanian ambassador to the United Nations (from 1964 to 1967), has been freed and has left Nouakchott for France informed sources in the Mauritanian capital confirmed Tuesday. Mr Miske, who was arrested on 27 December 1980 along with six other Mauritanians, was under house arrest at Akjoujt, his home town, north of Nouakchott, after Mauritanian authorities discovered a pro-Libya plot.

Now that he has been set free all Mauritanians who were caught in connection with the plot have recovered their freedom. The other persons who had been arrested were released last January following a visit to Nouakchott by Libyan Secretary of State for External Relations at-Turayki, who normalized the relations between the two countries. These relations were strained after Mauritanian officials expelled three Libyan diplomats for inciting people to subversion in December.

The Libyan Cultural Center, which had been closed down, was then allowed to resume activities after Mr at-Turayki's visit, and the Libyan Embassy has also resumed its normal activities under the direction of a people's bureau.

WESTERN SAHARA

ABDELAZIZ REVIEWS 5 YEARS OF SAHARAN STRUGGLE

LD041321 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1 Mar 81 p 5

[Unattributed report]

[Text] On the fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], Mohammed Abdelaziz, Polisario Front secretary general and chairman of the SDAR Revolutionary Command Council, delivered a major speech.

After reviewing the steps already made in the struggle and the circumstances in which the SDAR was born, Mohammed Abdelaziz stated:

"The SADR is now more than ever an irreversible and flourishing reality. It is experiencing constant development which constitutes the framework in which our people's will is expressed and in which their aspirations are asserted and their rights to independence and sovereignty over the whole national territory take shape. The SDAR has the necessary conditions and institutions for exercising its prerogatives. As a state which is building and resisting at the same time, it enjoys the world's recognition, respect and consideration, aspires to take its place in the community of nations and is facing unmistakable aggression from the Moroccan expansionist regime."

Stressing that the SDAR has been the victim of aggression for more than 5 years, he continued:

"...The work done and the results obtained are enormous in view of the time spent. They are a real source of pride for us and hence deserve to be mentioned if only briefly.

"The defense and protection of the SDAR has always been and still is our people's fundamental mission and major concern to which they devote most of their energies and potential in a world in which might is still right. To thwart the invaders' designs and defeat their aggression against our state's sovereignty, the Saharan people have risen up and turned to the task of establishing the foundations of a strong defense system through an organized and disciplined army capable of meeting the challenge, protecting our achievements and guaranteeing our existence.

"The SPLA, which now controls more than 90 percent of the national territory, is the pride of these people who created it and whom it effectively defends. It is the hero of the epics it is creating every moment by inflicting defeat after defeat on the invading royalist armed forces. The king's army," he added, "has resorted to all the arsenals of death and destruction against our people placed at its disposal by several governments, chancelleries and general staffs and is benefitting from all their experience of, and sophisticated methods used in, exterminating peoples, which they gained during their colonial expeditions. The response to the aggression and designs was not long in coming. Our SPLA increased its military activity, thus proving its superiority in the field and excelling in its efforts to defend our people's existence before launching a generalized and sustained offensive. This offensive took the form of extending the threater of conflict to the aggressor's territory, not sparing his supply and other bases....Despite their scale and impressive modern and sophisticated armaments, the foreign interventions have not succeeded in altering the course of events.

"The invader's occupation zone has constantly shrunk--the very invader who, from the start of his criminal action, prided himself on occupying our country and large sections of Mauritanian territory under the fallacious pretext of protecting Mauritania and on threatening his neighbors with an arrogant show of strength. All this has now been reduced to defending Moroccan territory itself and attempting to prolong the occupation of a few areas in the SDAR, while our national emblem flies over the rest--the main part--of the national territory."

Mohammed Abdelaziz then described the great progress made by the SDAR in the sphere of health care and education. This social progress has been achieved by the effective mobilization of the Saharan people and by organizing the liberated territories.

Turning to SDAR foreign policy, the Polisario Front secretary general stated in particular that "the proven support and solidarity of all those who value freedom and justice toward us are having a positive effect on our people's struggle. They constitute an incentive and an encouragement to our cause whose legitimacy has been consecrated by the international community and all its organizations.

"Specific support and expressions of sympathy for the SDAR have increased and it is recognized by most OAU member countries. Consequently the SDAR should legitimately occupy its place in the African organization in keeping with our continental organization's charter; otherwise there is a danger of allowing the precedent of expansionism and aggression to be established, posing a serious threat to our entire continent.

"Only sincere respect for and strict application of the charter's principles," he added, "particularly those which lay down the peoples' right to self-detrmination and the one which relates to the inviolability of the borders inherited with independence can protect the OAU from traps likely to undermine its credibility and avert the dangers hanging over it. Some people will say that this war and its resulting instability, which is taking place in northwest Africa, are the work of the Moroccan Government, whose premediated aggression against the Saharan people threatens security and peace in Africa and in the world."

Speaking about relations between the SDAR and Mauritania, Mohammed Abdelaziz indicated: "There is no doubt that the Algiers agreement signed between the SDAR and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in addition to finally ending the fratricidal war between us (in the days when Mauritania was in the aggressor's camp), opens up new prospects for developing good-neighborly relations and cooperation between our countries and our peoples and enables us to distinguish between those who are working for peace and those who oppose it in the region.

"Our desire for peace has never been denied. On many occasions we have called upon Morocco to end the conflict opposing it to the SDAR by peaceful means on the basis of respect for our people's inalienable rights to existence, independence and national sovereignty. Its refusal points to the immense responsibility borne by Morocco and the people who are supporting it in the war and its implications.

Discussing the military and financial support which some countries are giving Morocco, Mohammed Abdelaziz reiterated that "such aid, by fueling Morocco's intransigence, in no way serves the cause of peace in the region and, in addition, contradicts the decisions of international organizations, particularly the resolution adopted by the 35th UN General Assembly. It will only increase the isolation and many different problems faced by a regime with its back to the wall."

After expressing the SDAR's concern and anxiety over the situation in the world characterized by the arms race, zones of tension, and aggressions directed against peoples, Mohammed Abdelaziz stressed the serious nature of the recent U.S. decision to supply Morocco with more arms to be used against the Saharan people. "The unfriendly and negative U.S. attitude," he said, "poses serious dangers and further heightens U.S. responsibility for the pursuit of the expansionist genocidal war."

In the Polisario Front secretary general's view the restoration of peace and stability in our region "depends on the withdrawal of all colonial forces of aggression from all SDAR territories. The Saharan people," he stated, "will not tolerate the presence of any aggressor soldier on their national territory and will fight until this objective is attained."

In conclusion Mohammed Abdelaziz reaffirmed the Saharan people's solidarity with all peoples struggling for their freedom and independence.

BEGIN CRITICIZES EUROPEAN NORMALIZATION PLAN

TA041314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin this morning spoke out strongly against a secret European working paper which is reportedly to call for a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories in exchange for normalization in ties with the Arab states. The prime minister was speaking in the Knesset to a group of French former paratroopers now visiting the country.

[Begin recording] [David Essing] Prime Minister Begin first said that for generations the Jewish people had greatly admired France. But, then, Begin told the former paratroopers, wearing Israeli red berets, that there has been a change lately:

[Begin] However, with deep pain I must say that, lately, the official policy toward Israel of several European countries--including France, to our regret--is absolutely negative and, sometimes, to us, incomprehensible.

[Unidentified correspondent] The prime minister condemned the Venice declaration calling for the PLO to be associated with peace negotiations. Then he turned to the recent secret European document. It calls for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders within 2 years coupled with foreign security guarantees.

[Begin] This is a plan of making it possible one day to wipe out Israel, to change completely our national situation, to bring the greatest damage to our country. I speak about it more in regret than in anger. Europe, in which we lived for more than 1,000 years, in which we suffered so much; France, which we have loved so much throughout the times, would contemplate such a possibility that we should become again--as it was during the Middle Ages--protected Jews.

No, no, ladies and gentlemen. We will not ask any foreign soldiers to fight for us.

[Essing] Prime Minister Begin appealed to the former paratroopers to influence public opinion in France when they return home. [end recording]

LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE REJECTS EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

TA042120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The Labor Party Political Committee this evening rejected the European initiative and expressed concern with the plans of the United States and Germany to sell sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia. Concern was also expressed about the intention to supply Jordan with modern arms. The committee called for increasing the efforts to stop Germany from carrying out its intention to supply Saudi Arabia with tanks and aircraft and criticized the manner in which the government conducted the campaign against the arms shipments to Riyadh.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON SAUDI ARMS DEALS

TA041124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Israel is firmly opposed to German arms supply to Saudi Arabia and will not agree to any compromises or to any deals of compensation with the Germans. This was stated by Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi who appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He said it is Britain especially that exerts pressure for the implementation of the deal since it has an economic interest in the Tornado plane that it co-produces with Germany and Italy.

Several committee members leveled criticism at the government's method of handling the arms deals between Germany and Saudi Arabia and between the United States and Saudi Arabia. Mk Zalman Shoval said the handling was amateurish. Eytan Livni said relations with Germany should be cooled off and that delegations should not be sent there any longer. According to Yitzhaq Rabin, the United States views Israel and Egypt as being in its pocket already and all it wants is to win the Saudis' heart.

MA'ARIV COMMENTATOR VIEWS SAUDI ARMS ISSUE

TA021454 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Mar 81 p 5

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Saudi Dispute in the Government"]

[Excerpts] Prior to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's departure for his recent talks in Washington, he held consultations in his office about the various subjects due to be discussed there. The main topic naturally was the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia and the participants in the consultation racked their brains about what more could be done to undermine or at least reduce the size of the Saudi deal.

It seems to me, the minister remarked, that it does not at all matter what I am going to say there because they, the Americans, have already formulated their stands and will say whatever they see fit...persuasiveness, at least in this case, is not going to play more than a negligible role... The foreign minister's evaluation was correct indeed. The Americans could not be moved from their already formulated stand, even though they did demonstrate their good will toward Israel by promising that if they give the Saudis offensive arms that are liable to upset the arms balance in the region in Israel's disfavor, the United States will see to it that Israel, too, is provided with a sufficient amount and quality of arms to prevent the balance from being upset.

At the Cabinet meeting yesterday Minister Sharon raised the issue once again, maintaining that Israel had not reacted strongly enough and had not done enough to undermine the Saudi deal, which constitutes a threat to Israel. During the short discussion that ensued there were several ministers who sided with Minister Sharon. Deputy Defense Minister Tzipori contended that the deal was part of an overall American conception aimed at averting Soviet expansion, apparently trying to imply that Israel can therefore do very little anyway, since even Israel's friends in the U.S. establishment cannot disagree with the need to adopt this concept and to go ahead with the Saudi deal already worked out by the Carter administration.

Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg responded to what Sharon had to say by maintaining that Saudi Arabia has no need for U.S. low-interest loans and grants. What, then, can the Americans give the Saudis apart from arms?

Both ministers are apparently right but the real issue is not the specific Saudi deal currently in question. The issue is Israel's ability to convince the United States that the entire concept by which the former administration was guided was mistaken. The fear is that the Reagan administration may not have given up this former concept--unless we assume that the Saudi deal is merely required in order to rehabilitate Washington's credibility in the eyes of Riyadh and that once this outstanding debt left over by the Carter administration is settled, a true reformulation of American policy will get underway.

The supply of sophisticated aircraft and tanks to the Saudis is carried out within the framework of "saving the Persian Gulf." This is the concept. The United States may also hope that by providing the Saudis with such military equipment, the latter will have to consent to the entrance of American experts and advisers into their territory and a massive U.S. presence in that region will thus be achieved. There is nothing left for Israel to do but to try to convince the Americans that it is in the interest of the United States to make a distinction between the complex of problems concerning the Persian Gulf and the one having to do with the Israel-Arab dispute. This is the true test of American credibility in the face of the current threat hovering over Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. The security of these countries is in no way dependent on finding a solution to the Palestinian problem, which currently serves as the spearhead of the Soviet aggressive policy in the Middle East.

So long as Saudi Arabia makes its attitude toward the United States and its readiness to have an American stronghold established on its territory for the sake of its own security contingent upon Israeli concessions with regard to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the return of Jerusalem, for example, no arms deal can be expected to compensate the Saudis or to save the Persian Gulf. Minister Shamir may have been right in maintaining that so far as this particular Saudi arms deal is concerned, no amount of "persuasion" can have more than a limited effect on the American decision, but if Israel does not manage to convince the United States that from now on the security of the Persian Gulf ought to be tackled on a different plane than the problems pertaining to the Israel-Arab dispute, there is indeed good reason to fear that many more Saudi deals will be in the offing and that no strong Ari'el Sharon-style disapproval on Israel's part can be expected to avert them.

DAYAN PROPOSES ISRAELI-U.S. DEFENSE PACT

TA041440 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] MK Moshe Dayan proposes that Israel turn the U.S. commitment to establish a multinational force for the supervision of the Sinai into a defense pact between the United States and Israel. In his opinion, difficulties will arise in obtaining Senate approval for the stationing of U.S. soldiers in the Sinai for an indefinite period of time, as Israel wants and as required by the peace agreement. Therefore, he says Israel should insist that any agreement would state that the multinational force not be evacuated without the parties concerned having reached an agreement on it beforehand. He further demanded that any agreement on this issue be brought to the Knesset for approval before it becomes effective.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that the Knesset had already authorized the Cabinet to reach an agreement on it, but did not totally reject the possibility of raising the issue before the Knesset for a vote.

MK Ge'ula Kohen recalled that in the past Dayan thought that a buffer between ourselves and our neighbors would limit Israel's maneuverability. The Knesset decided to transfer the issue to the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

PERES, LABOR SPOKESMAN VIEW JORDANIAN OPTION

Peres Comments

TA050610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Shim'on Peres has said that the Alignment does not actually adhere to the Jordanian option and, from his viewpoint, there is also a willingness to negotiate with the inhabitants of the [administered] territories.

At a debate in the Labor Party's political committee, Peres said: "The Alignment is not wedded to any political doctrine and, from its viewpoint, there are the autonomy arrangement, negotiations with Jordan, and also the possiblity of negotiations with inhabitants of the territories."

Correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that Moshe Dayan's name was mentioned several times in the course of the debate and criticism was leveled at his political positions.

Party Spokesman

TA050740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] This morning the Labor Party spokesman explained that the Jordanian option is still the option the Alignment prefers. Yesterday Shim'on Peres, at the Labor Party's political committee, said the Alignment did not adhere to the Jordanian option alone and he was also prepared to negotiate with inhabitants of the territories.

POLL REFLECTS DEGREE OF TRUST OF UNITED STATES

TA041152 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Since Ronald Reagan's election as U.S. President, the Israeli public's trust in the United States as a neutral mediator in the Middle East dispute has increased but the opinion that U.S. policy inclines more toward the Arab side than to Israel is still prevalent. This emerges from a Pori Institute nationwide public opinion poll conducted at the request of HA'ARETZ.

When asked: "Can the United States be trusted as a neutral mediator in the Middle East dispute, working for a peace agreement that will be fair for both sides, or does the United States lean more toward either the Arab or the Israeli side?: 28.9 percent answered that the United States could be trusted as a neutral mediator (compared with 23.9 percent in June 1980, before Reagan's election), 20 percent said that U.S. policy favors the Arabs more (19.1 percent in June 1980) and 15 percent (8.8 percent in June 1980) said that U.S. policy is more favorable to Israel.

The poll's editor, Pori director Refa'el Gil, comments that the 15 percent who think that U.S. policy is more favorable to Israel than it is to the Arabs is, however, the highest noted in Pori polls since July 1978. A large group of 28.5 percent said that the United States was only working for its own interests and the remaining 7.4 percent said they "did not know" whether the United States could or could not be trusted as a neutral mediator. The poll covered a representative section of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed personally in their homes throughout the country.

The poll also shows that that majority of the Israeli public believes that the U.S. public leans toward support for Israel, not the Arabs; nevertheless, the Israeli public does not think that U.S. public support for Israel has increased over the last year.

Of all the people questioned, 47.6 percent believe that the U.S. public support inclines toward Israel, compared with 14.3 percent who think that its support is given to the Arabs. Another 27.3 percent said that U.S. public opinion was "more or less" neutral and 10.8 percent said they "do not know."

However, only 8.9 percent believe that the U.S. public's support for Israel has increased over the last year, compared with 45.8 percent who think it has decreased and 33.9 percent who think that there has not been any change one way or the other. The remaining 11.4 percent said they "do not know."

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON MEETINGS IN MEXICO

TA040710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Mar 81

[By Shalom Qital]

[Text] A few minutes ago I spoke with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Mexico City, where he is winding up his Latin American tour, having visited Colombia and Mexico. This is what the foreign minister had to say about the meetings he held in Mexico in the last few days:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I spoke with him [Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Jorge de la Rosa Castaneda]. Certainly, differences of opinion emerged during the talk but the talk was very friendly and hearty and we decided on ways for deepening and expanding cooperation.

In the speech he gave at the luncheon held in my honor--it was a political speech in which he referred to the international political situation and the situation in Latin America--he also mentioned Mexico's well-known position that it recognizes Israel's right to exist and Israel's need to maintain secure and recognizable borders. At the same time, he stated Mexico's position in favor of self-determination for the Palestinian people, who should have a state of their own in its own right. Of course, I reacted to these remarks and explained our positions and, just as he did, I repeated that there were certainly differences of opinion. Nevertheless, in spite of these differences we will continue our friendly relations and cooperation. Such was the atmosphere that prevailed and such is Mexico's policy. The Mexican foreign minister says this on every occasion.

The Mexican president also said to me today, incidentally, although he was not referring to a Palestinian state, that there could be differences of opinion between us. However, this will not disrupt the deep and friendly relations and mutual cooperation. He also mentioned the issue of oil supply and said that Mexico had no inhibitions on this subject.

[Qital] This is certainly an interesting point. Are you leaving Mexico with the feeling that oil supplies from Mexico to Israel are also certain in the future?

[Shamir] It seems so to me. I did not ask or raise the subject because, as far as we are concerned, the situation in this respect is perfectly normal. [end recording]

I asked the foreign minister about the meeting he is expected to conduct with the pope but he refused to comment, saying he would only discuss the matter after he has held the meeting at Vatican City.

News Conference

TA050958 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] The foreign minister has said that Israel and Egypt are the only stable countries in the Middle East and are an island of peace and calm in the area. At a news conference at the conclusion of his visit to Mexico, Yitzhaq Shamir said it was possible to say that the first part of the Camp David agreements had become a reality and was being implemented before our very eyes. The dialogue about the other part would continue when the Egyptians wanted, Shamir said. He commented that the PLO was trying to cause a conflict between Israel and Egypt, but its attempts were failing.

In reply to a question about the events in El Salvador, Shamir said that Israel was following a policy of nonintervention in all the crises in Central America. When he was asked about the sale of Israeli weapons to Latin American countries, Shamir answered: "Many countries manufacture and sell arms and afterward they do not succeed in controlling the use made of them."

Yitzhaq Shamir spent 4 days in Mexico, in the course of which he met with President Portillo and the Mexican secretary of foreign relations. He also spoke with the head of Mexico's national oil company.

SHARON, EYTAN MEET ON IDF SUPPORT FOR SETTLEMENTS

TA030822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon met Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan this morning to discuss the ways in which the IDF will, in the future, help strengthen the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports that the chief of staff was accompanied by the commander of the central command and that the meeting received the approval of the prime minister and defense minister. Among other things the two discussed the utilization of IDF soldiers for guarding land slated for settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

EGYPTIAN TRADE DELAY MAY HERALD MORE POSTPONEMENTS

TA021430 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Mar 81 p 1

[By Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Excerpt] In the wake of the Egyptian parliament committee resolution last night to postpone the ratification of the trade agreement between the two countries, it is estimated in Israel that the ratification of other agreements that were initialed by Israel and Egypt last April, especially in the cultural sphere, may be also postponed. Following a stormy debate last night, the Egyptian parliament committee refrained from ratifying the trade agreement with Israel, which has been implemented in practice ever since April last year. The committee resolved to postpone any further discussion of that issue to an unspecified time. In the course of the debate last night, different parliament deputies expressed their opposition to the ratification.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WORSENS IN FEBRUARY

TA041121 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Mar 81 p 6

[Excerpt] In February the employment situation worsened. In spite of the decrease in the number of people looking for work and the increase in the number of orders for employees, the number of people receiving unemployment pay increased by about 400 and the number of people who had been unemployed for 6 days or more increased by more than 1,000.

According to the conclusions of the data provided by the Employment Service's Department of Information and Statistics, and there were 36,045 people looking for work this February, compared with 36,760 in January, there were 17,014 requests for employees this month, compared with 15,695 in January. The employment bureaus were unable to fulfill 1,792 of the requests because of a lack of suitable candidates, compared with 1,367 requests they could not fulfill in January.

There has been an appreciable increase in the number of people unemployed for 6 days or more: in February the number came to 16,627 with 15,469 last month. The number of people receiving permits for unemployment pay came to 13,457 compared with 13,064 in January and 1,145 of these were academics and 4,048 were women. From all the people receiving unemployment pay, 4,082 received it for the first time in February.

POLL REVEALS ATTITUDES TOWARD ARAB MINORITY

TA030942 Jerusalem POST in English 3 Mar 81 p 2

[By political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Over half the population thinks the Arab minority has not managed to integrate into Israeli life and does not regard Israel as its homeland, according to the latest Jerusalem POST poll. It was conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre among a representative selection of 1,273 adults.

Question. In your opinion, have Israeli Arabs become integrated into Israeli life and regard this country as their homeland?

A positive answer was given by 42.2 percent, 53.3 percent said no and 4.6 percent were undecided.

The nay-sayers were then asked: "In your opinion is there a prospect that Israeli Arabs will in the future integrate into the country's life and regard it as their homeland?

Only 10.6 percent thought it is possible, 35.5 percent said maybe, and 62.7 percent said there is no prospect. One percent was undecided.

Analysis of the results indicates a relatively high proportion among those believing that Arabs have not integrated and have little chance of doing so in the future belong to the higher social and educational strata and white-collar professions, are of Western origin, and religious.

The view is generally shared by supporters of the National Religious Party, the Aguda bloc and SHINUY.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH GREECE TO BE CONTINUED

TA021409 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Mar 81 p 2

[By Political Correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel and Greece will continue the political dialogue between them and the ties between the two countries are expected to be expanded. A decision to this effect was reached in a meeting between Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi and Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Dhimitrios Voudhouris, who is now visiting Israel on the occasion of the Greek Orthodox community celebrations and on the inauguration of the new Greek Orthodox patriarch.

It may be assumed that following the resumption of the political ties between Israel and Greece, the relations between the two countries will improve. The main improvement is expected to be felt in expanding trade and economic ties.

Israel attaches considerable importance to relations with Greece, in view of the fact that the latter is a member of the European Common Market and of its strategic importance in the Mediterranean basin.

DULZIN INTERVIEWED ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

TA271923 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Interview of Jewish Agency head Arye Dulzin by Levi Yitzhaq Hayerushalmi, Shlomo Naqdimon and Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat on the program "Gentlemen, the Press"; date and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] At one time an idea was entertained whereby Soviet Jews would be flown directly to Israel, that this method might prevent or decrease the Soviet Jews' dropout rate [meaning those going to countries other than Israel]. Could you perhaps tell us where this issue stands today?

[Dulzhin] To my great regret there is nothing I can tell about this today. We tried. There were attempts at a dialogue with the Soviet leaders...

[Unidentified correspondent--interrupts] Not directly, of course--through Dobrynin or Dr Goldman perhaps?

[Dulzin] Not through Dobrynin or Dr Goldman. It followed an appeal by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. One important man who has ties with Brezhnev raised this issue with Brezhnev...

[Unidentified correspondent--interrupts] A Jew?

[Dulzin] Yes, a Jew. To our regret, this policy has not yet materialized.

[Unidentified correspondent] In other words, this Jew raised the matter with Brezhnev...

[Dulzin--interrupts] This Jew raised the matter with Brezhnev and when he raised this issue Brezhnev told him: Why not? However, one of the persons sitting next to Brezhnev whispered something and nothing came of the idea. This is a fact. It is clear that I can not divulge the name of the Jew involved.

PLO TANK ACQUISITION SEEN AS SIGNIFICANT

TA041014 Jerusalem POST in English 4 Mar 81 pp 1,2

[Excerpt] The acquisition of 60 Soviet T-34 tanks by PLO terrorists in south Lebanon, disclosed by Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan yesterday, is considered by military sources in Jerusalem as a "significant" development.

Despite their vintage, the presence of these tanks in such numbers in south Lebanon is seen as representing at least the beginning of a capacity to service, supply and deploy relatively complex weapon systems.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, the chief of staff said the tanks came from Hungary and reached the PLO via the Syrian port of Ladhiqiyah.

He also confirmed that Palestinian pilots were being trained in the air forces of more than one Muslim country, both on Israel's borders, as well as farther afield.

As for Israel's anti-terrorist activities in south Lebanon, Eytan said the IDF had been successful lately, in knocking the terrorists off their balance and rendering them uneasy and confused by a variety of tactics.

Military sources in Jerusalem noted last night that, to date, the terrorists have been supplied with some of the best weaponry available--but only up to the company level, making the acquisition of the tanks especially significant.

The T-34's are not the first tanks the terrorists have acquired. According to foreign reports, they managed to capture a number of old World War II vintage Sherman tanks during the civil war in Lebanon, but these were too few to indicate any qualitative change in the PLO's capacity to man and command armour or similar weapons.

SOMALIA

MOGADISHU DENOUNCES MENGISTU MILITARIZATION PLANS

LD042118 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Mengistu has announced that he will transform his country into a military power. That is the topic of our commentary tonight written and read by ('Abd ar-Rahman Shidow Abdi):

Mengistu Haile Mariam has for the past several weeks been announcing that military conscription will be carried out throughout the country. All young men and women between 18 and 25 will be eligible. This follows the recent meeting in Addis Ababa of the committee he assigned to organize and create a party. It also coincides with his recent visit to Moscow.

It is surprising that even though he has announced that there will be a campaign to revive the economy of the country as well as eradicate illiteracy, he has chosen to start with the building up of forces comprised of mercenaries and militia forced into the military. This action by Mengistu is contrary to the wishes of the Ethiopian masses who desperately need welfare assistance. This military training for Ethiopian youths is being carried out for purposes other than the defense of the country. It also coincides with the recent so-called communiques issued by Mengistu and other leaders.

The training of mercenary troops is for:

1. In the first place forcibly turning all youths and other progressive forces, students, farmers and the general masses into mercenary forces to carry out and fulfill the orders of Moscow, as the Cubans now do.

2. Endangering peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and at the same time launching provocative attacks against neighboring countries such as the Somali Democratic Republic.

3. Undermining the legitimate rights of those who are struggling for their self-determination, such as the western Somali, Abo, Eritrean and Tigre peoples.

This is not the first time such attempt by Mengistu to turn the whole of Ethiopia into a fighting force. Mengistu has on several occasions attempted to oppress the Ethiopian masses by destroying their intellectuals and other societal leaders. This current announcement is similar to the one he made in 1977 when the western Somali, Abo and Eritrean masses almost freed their land. He responded by conscripting 300,000 militiamen and sending them to the front. This action by Mengistu brought upon the Ethiopian masses untold catastrophes in terms of manpower and material resources. These problems have crippled the economy and the progress of the country.

In addition to the training of the mercenaries, the number of foreign troops based in Ethiopia is increasing day by day. Among the foreign troops in this region are Cubans, Russians and other lackeys in the Russian military bases in Ethiopia, Aden and Libya. All this endangers the peace and stability of the peoples living in the Horn in particular and the world in general.

Mengistu's policy of training mercenaries and forming militias is similar to that of Al-Qadhdhafi and is based on terrorism and expansionism in Africa and the world. This is only fulfilling the aims, aspirations and the strategic policies of Moscow. That Mengistu went on an arms shopping spree during his recent stay in Moscow has become evident by his public statements. These arms are not beneficial to the Ethiopian masses; they only carry out Moscow's wishes. But fortunately Africa and the world are exercising vigilance against these treacherous acts being planned by Moscow, whose expansionist policy can no longer be hidden.

CAMEROON

RADIO VIEWS SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTEMPT TO ATTEND UN

AB041045 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Dickson Tangoni Commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] racist South Africa has just made its third abortive attempt in 6 years to be allowed at the UN General Assembly. In the news talk that follows, Dickson Tangoni examines the basis of the UN decision and thinks that South Africa has even been able to defy the world for so long just because it succeeded in dividing the forces of the UN.

Isolation has for a long time been society's most effective way of punishing those members who show great disrespect for the rights of others or who break the norms of social harmony. It is so effective that even the racists in Pretoria--who have answered with incarceration and death when the blacks had asked to be treated like human beings, to be allowed to mix freely with other human beings irrespective of skin colors--that even these racists now feel the pang of being left out of the United Nations. Three times in 6 years they have tried to move back in and three times they have been repulsed. It looks as if the United Nations is showing some seriousness of purpose in a most vivid way by refusing to sit and discuss or debate world affairs with a state that not only condemns the healthiest majority of citizens [words indistinct] but that has for ages now been defying the whole world by the same apartheid and by the continued occupation of Namibia.

The least that the United Nations could do was to [word indistinct] South Africa from its conferences since some decisive voices by vetoes and by traditional abstentions have made it difficult or impossible to do more. But Pretoria's three attempts to come in must teach the United Nations that the whole race and occupation problem in that part of Africa could end very quickly if everybody at the United Nations--and I mean everybody--came out in support of mandatory sanctions against that stubborn defaulter. The United Nations must understand that South Africa is rich and strong but not self-sufficient and at the game it would not last much longer after the collective trump card is played. [words indistinct]

And because of this reluctance of the big powers of the West to cooperate, no new reaction more than any other is to be expected in Pretoria toward this third rebuss: It will become more obdurate, which means that we could as well start thinking of a doubling, even a tripling, of the time between now and when Namibia gets independence. But even with the help of the big West, Pretoria [words indistinct] will not last much longer than [word indistinct] because at the same time the United Nations' action, small as it may be, is another big source of inspiration and moral strength for SWAPO and for all those who participate actively in the fight for the liberation of Namibia and Azania. The way may be long but it has to end somewhere and it will end with (?Pretoria's) feet in the air.

CHAD

ACYL AHMAT CITED ON OAU-SUPERVISED ELECTION

AB051000 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Chad says she is prepared to hold an OAU-supervised election. The country's foreign minister, Mr Ahmat Acyl, disclosed this during a stopover in Bonn, West Germany. He stated that President Goukouni Oueddei has invited the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Edem Kodjo, to send a commission to Chad to determine when the election should be held. [words indistinct] Mr Acyl, who attended the last OAU ministerial conference in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, explained that Libya will provide military help to check any possible foreign aggression.

ZAIRE

BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH MOBUTU

AB050852 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens yesterday had discussions with the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko. The talks, which began at Mont Ngaliema, later continued on board the MS Kamanyola. The Belgian prime minister later told the press: Our discussions were frank and very positive. He added that his discussions with the head of state will be completed by those between the delegations of both countries to be headed by himself and the Zairian first state commissioner respectively.

On the occasion of yesterday's discussions, the head of state gave a luncheon in honor of Mr and Mrs Wilfried Martens and their entourage on board the MS Kamanyola, which made an excursion to Nsele. After the luncheon, the Belgian prime minister and his wife and their entourage, which included Foreign Minister Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb and the Belgian ambassador to Zaire, Mr Marcel van Beilinghen, visited the presidential agro-industrial estate at Nsele in the company of Citizen (Nuogo) and his wife and Citizens Bomboko and (Sewadonge) while the members of the presidential entourage returned to Camp Tshatshi by helicopter.

Following is the interview with the Belgian prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Question] You have had discussions with the president. [words indistinct]

[Answer] We had frank and very positive discussions today. These discussions are to be completed by those to be held with the first state commissioner and the other members of the Zairian Government before my press conference tomorrow. I can assure you that the discussions were fundamental and very positive.

[Question] What was the atmosphere in which you had these discussions with the president? How did you find it?

[Answer] It is commonplace to talk about a good atmosphere, but when I tell you that the atmosphere was positive, this is not a routine statement: It is in fact something very positive. [end recording]

Request for Advisers

AB050902 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 5 Mar (AFP)--President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Prime Minister Wilfried Martens of Belgium met here on Wednesday for talks that were expected to touch on General Mobutu's request for more Belgian military advisers to help Zaire protect its mineral-rich Shaba Province. There are presently 110 Belgian advisers in Zaire, 21 of them in Shaba, where Belgium, France, Morocco and the United States helped General Mobutu halt invasions by former Katangan gendarmes based in Angola in 1977 and 1978.

Diplomatic sources said the talks had the goal of clarifying relations between Zaire and Belgium, with a view to relaunching bilateral cooperation. This diplomatic language appeared to reflect General Mobutu's known irritation that the Belgian media carry statements from exiled Zairian opposition figures living in Brussels.

On Shaba, it was expected that Mr. Martens would ask General Mobutu for details of his weekend meeting with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in Lusaka. After having reached agreement with Luanda that neither Zaire nor Angola would harbor each other's armed opposition, it appears General Mobutu is looking for the same kind of cooperation from Zambia, which borders Shaba to the south. The joint statement published after General Mobutu's visit to Lusaka said the two countries would cooperate more closely on border security, and stipulated that the free return of Zairian refugees from Zambia would be facilitated.

GHANA

OAU'S KODJO REACTS TO REAGAN STAND ON SOUTH AFRICA

AB041931 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The OAU secretary general, Mr Edem Kodjo, has said the situation in Chad is now under control and that an effective foundation has been laid for the implementation of OAU resolutions in that country. Speaking to newsmen during a stopover in Accra, Mr Edem Kodjo said that he is convinced that the two warring factions are nearer peace now than ever before. He said even though the Chad issue was not on the agenda of the recent ministerial conference in Addis Ababa, there were consultations between the ministers on it.

On President Reagan's stand on South Africa, Mr Kodjo said the OAU will not compromise on his stand against the apartheid republic. He added that if Mr Reagan supports the policies of the racist regime then the OAU will have to advise itself on relations with the United States.

LIBERIA

FOREIGNERS IN FINANCE MINISTRY POSTS TO BE REMOVED

AB030004 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Text] In a further move to implement the Liberianization program, the new minister of finance, George (Bunya), has revealed that non-Liberian employees occupying key positions at the ministry are to be dismissed shortly.

Speaking to the NEW LIBERIAN newspaper yesterday, Monday, Mr (Bunya) said that he had received a memorandum from head of state Doe directing him to identify all non-Liberians in strategic areas at the ministry so that they can be relieved of their portfolios. Mr (Bunya) said that he intends to execute head of state Doe's directives by taking positive actions in favor of the Liberianization program.

In a similar move last week, head of state Doe directed the acting president of the (Mashuare Group) Company, (Mrs Alisa Johnson), to dismiss nine officials of the company who were said to be non-Liberian citizens. They were dismissed for administrative reasons.

An executive mansion release in connection with the (Mashuare) shakeup said that the People's Redemption Council has embarked on campaign of Liberianization beginning with the (Mashuare Group) Company. The release further quoted head of state Doe as saying that Liberians who are qualified accountants and business managers should be recruited to solve vacancies created by the dismissal of foreigners.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CRITICIZES ARREST OF EDITOR

AB042228 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC] Committee on Information, Capt Joseph K. (Sampson), today described as wrong and bad the action taken by Police Director Joe Y. Myers to have the editor in chief of the NEW LIBERIAN newspaper, Mr Tom Kamara, arrested yesterday. According to reports, Director Myers despatched about eight men of the police riot squad to the office of editor Kamara to effect his arrest for reporting in the Tuesday issue of the NEW LIBERIAN that about 2,000 employees of the national police force may not receive pay for the next 3 months because of financial constraints.

It can be recalled that in the article referred to in the NEW LIBERIAN, Director Myers allegedly refused to comment when the reporter approached him for clarification. Captain (Sampson) told the press at the capital building that Director Myers' action contravenes PRC pronouncements that journalists should not be molested and the press freedom should be respected in Liberia.

The PRC chairman on information also said that all those having claims against the Information Ministry and related agencies should go through his or the minister's office for redress instead of arbitrarily arresting journalists.

In related development, Information Minister Lt Col (Bebey Harrison) said in Monrovia today that he stands for a free, responsible and professional press in Liberia. Mr (Harrison) urged journalists in the country to be sincere and stand by what they write. Delivering the opening address at the 1-day workshop of Liberian journalists at the national cultural center in (Keneja), the information boss added that the press owes the nation a responsibility to portray it to the world. He pledged his fullest cooperation in helping journalists in the country discharge this responsibility.

In response the secretary general of the Press Union of Liberia, David (Botey) thanked Minister (Harrison) for providing a forum for exchange of views. He urged Minister (Harrison) to use his influence to stop the arbitrary arrests and harrassments of journalists. Mr (Botey) asked for a PRC decree on freedom of the press, since it was the only instrument which guarantees press freedom in the absence of the constitution.

NEW LIBERIAN SAYS POLICE MAY NOT RECEIVE SALARIES

AB041202 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Monrovia, 4 Mar (AFP)--More than 2,000 people working for the Liberian police force might not receive their March, April and May salaries due to serious financial strains facing the force, the government newspaper the NEW LIBERIAN reported here. The newspaper, quoted by the Liberian LINA news agency, blamed the strains on promotions of top brass personnel since the (?coup), the creation of new jobs and the reinstatement of former personnel with higher ranks. These were some of the causes which might lead to exhaustion of the budget for the fiscal year which ends in June, the newspaper said, quoting informed sources. The budget is 7.5 million dollars.

Police Director Joe Myers, according to the NEW LIBERIAN, refused to comment on the report.

Official Denial

AB042147 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The assistant director of police for administration, Julian H. (Remin), has denied reports that more than 2,000 employees of the Liberian national police force may not receive their salaries for the months of March, April and May due to serious financial strains facing the police force.

Making the clarification today at the police headquarters in Monrovia, Assistant Director (Remin) said the police officers would continue to get their salaries even though the police force was facing a financial difficulty. He said the proposed budget for the police was $15 million and during the budgetary hearing in the presence of the minister of justice, it was reduced to $12 million.

Assistant Director (Remin) warned reporters against writing distorted information and news stories which could tarnish the good working relations and operations of individuals.

MALI

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS; COMMUNIQUE SIGNED

AB042111 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The vice president of the Syrian Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs left our country a short while ago for Algiers following a 3-day official visit to our country. Earlier, Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning visited the Selingue Dam, in the company of his Malian counterpart, Alioune Blondin Beye, and the minister of industrial development and tourism, Mr Robert Tieble N'Daw.

The two ministers of foreign affairs signed a final communique at the Bamako airport to mark the end of this official visit. Lamine Coulibali, who is just back from the airport, will read the communique for us:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, a Syrian delegation led by His Excellency 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic paid an official visit to Mali from 3 to 4 March 1981.

During his visit, the Syrian minister paid courtesy calls to top-level Malian officials. He was successively received by Col Ahmadou Baba Diarra, deputy secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union, through whom he conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Malian head of state Gen Moussa Traore; Dr Mamadou Dembele, secretary for external relations in the UDPM Central Executive Bureau; and by His Excellency Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamani, planning minister and acting head of government.

The Syrian minister and his delegation visited the Selingue Dam. Both ministers have held talks, which were attended on the Syrian side by Dr (Moustapha Alhaj Ali), director of the office of the prime minister and Dr (Same Khaliel), translator; and on the Malian side by Mr Lancine Keita, chief of the office of the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Mr Mokhtar Diallo, director general of international cooperation; Mr Mohamed Ben Baba Ahmed, from the political section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

During the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere of mutual understanding, the two parties discussed bilateral relations and held an in-depth exchange of views on international issues, especially on the situation in the Middle East and Africa. Their talks showed identical views, which reflects the strong ties between the Malian and Syrian people.

With regard to the international situation, the two delegations examined the serious developments in the Middle East resulting from the expansionist and [word indistinct] policy of the Zionist state. In this connection, the two delegations expressed satisfaction with the major measures taken recently at the at-Ta'if Islamic Conference. They (?uphold) in particular the Islamic plan of action against the Zionist enemy and the energetic resolutions on the issues of [words indistinct], Palestine and the Middle East.

The two sides reiterate their strong condemnation of the Camp David accords and the separate peace agreement. They reaffirm that the [word indistinct] and the clauses of the accords are contrary to the resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab League, OAU principles and the interests of the Islamic world.

Both parties reaffirm their strong determination to continue the common struggle for a fair, general settlement of the Middle East conflict, any solution to this crisis, which is essentially that of Palestine, must be based on a general, lasting and fair settlement. To insure peace and security in the Middle East, negotiations must be held by all the parties directly concerned, especially the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Such peace can only be achieved after a total, unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and on the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the only legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. Both parties are satisfied with the establishment of a PLO bureau in Bamako and its upgrading to the status of diplomatic mission.

Both parties underlined the similarity between the situation in the Middle East, where the rights of the Arab people are being assaulted by Israel and that in southern Africa where racist minorities in South Africa and Namibia continue to deny the black majority their fundamental rights. They condemn the criminal acts of South Africa's racist regime against Mozambique, Zambia, Angola and Zimbabwe. They pledge their permanent support to and their active solidarity with those brotherly countries. Both parties reaffirm their firm support to all national liberation movements, especially SWAPO as the only legitimate representative of the people of Namibia.

They also examined the situation in Western Sahara and Chad and expressed their common determination to leave no stone unturned in order to find fair and lasting solutions to the crisis in the interest of the people of the region.

They pledge their unflagging support for the positive role played by the Nonaligned Movement within the framework of current international relations and, in this regard, they hail the recent decisions taken at the New Delhi conference. They stressed that the movement can successfully carry out its historic mission of progressively improving international relations while continuing to fight colonialism, oppression of all kinds and subjugation. The two delegations highly appreciate the leading role of the organization of [words indistinct] within the framework of Arab-African cooperation and commend its moves to this end.

They thoroughly examined bilateral issues and agreed on practical measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation, which was given impetus in the wake of the visit of the Malian head of state to Damascus in February 1980.

His excellency, the vice president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic invited his excellency the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mr Beye, and his wife to pay an official visit to Syria. The invitation was gladly accepted and the date is to be set through diplomatic channels.

The vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, His Excellency 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, expressed his heartiest thanks for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality accorded him and the members of his delegation in the Republic of Mali.

Signed on the Syrian side by His Excellency 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and on the Malian side by Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Republic of Mali.

NIGERIA

MINISTER DESCRIBES PIRACY RUMORS AS 'FALSE ALARM'

AB041751 Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 4 March (AFP)--Mr Abdurrahman Dikko, the Nigerian minister of state in the Ministry of Transport, was quoted in Lagos on Wednesday by the NATIONAL CONCORD as saying that foreign ships were safe in Nigerian territorial waters. He gave this assurance to appease the fears of shipowners caused by information published abroad saying that pirates were operating in Nigerian territorial waters and asserting that no West African port was entirely safe any longer, the paper points out.

The minister of state in the Ministry of Transport said these allegations were aimed at blackmailing Nigeria, adding that to speak of sea piracy was tantamount to raising a false alarm. The minister asserted that the information was aimed at putting an end to sea trade between Nigeria and other countries. Finally, he added: We have only noticed petty stealing in the ports.

PRESS REPORTS CITED ON INCREASED ARMS SMUGGLING

AB041726 Paris AFP in French 1555 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 4 March (AFP)--The independent Nigerian newspaper, THE CONCORD, wrote on Wednesday that Interpol is worried about the rate at which Nigerian nationals in Europe and in the United States especially, have been buying arms illegally.

THE CONCORD refers to a warning note sent by Interpol last week to the Nigerian police through the FBI. According to THE CONCORD, which quotes police sources, Interpol wonders what has been making Nigerian citizens buy arms at such an alarming rate. The report sent to the police stresses that the buyers of firearms abroad are mainly students and certain individuals who sometimes buy up to 30 pistols and large quantities of ammunition which they smuggle to Nigeria for resale.

In addition, the SUNDAY TIMES, a government newspaper, announced last Sunday that about 50 persons had been arrested and a large quantity of arms seized over the last 2 years in Nigeria. The paper also revealed that arms factories had been discovered in the south of the country.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS COMMENTS ON GDR RELATIONS, NAMIBIA

AB040955 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Excerpts] President Siaka Stevens has said that Sierra Leone, like the German Democratic Republic, condemns all threats to world peace and any situation which might be inimical to the well-being of mankind. Speaking at a diplomatic ceremony at State House today in which the newly accredited ambassador of the German Democratic Republic, Mr Manfred Thiede, presented his letters of credence, President Stevens added that in the pursuit of our avowed policy of nonalignment, Sierra Leone will continue to cooperate in all international forums with like-minded states as the GDR which holds a commonality of views on current international issues.

The president further noted that the international community has again lost another opportunity to bring political change to Namibia by negotiation rather than confrontation because of South Africa's long record of intransigence and prevarication. He continued: Let South Africa and her supporters know that we in Africa are critically mindful of the deteriorating situation in that part of our continent. We shall not relax nor relent until the oppressed people of Namibia are free to determine their own fate by democratic means and until the [words indistinct] policy of apartheid was banished from the face of the African Continent.

COMOROS

REBELS REPORTEDLY ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT

AB041658 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Saint Denis, Reunion, 4 March (AFP)--Armed rebel militiamen tried to get villagers to march on the capital of the Comoro Islands and overthrow the government, but were stopped by the presidential guard, a well-informed source there said today. The source, speaking by telephone from the island of Brande Comoro to the French island of Reunion, said the coup attempt took place February 20. Afterward, the regime of President Ahmed Abdallah made a number of arrests among followers of Said Ali Kemal, the former ambassador of the Comoros to France who quit and went into opposition last July.

Mr. Kemal is said to have been in Antananarivo, Madagascar, since February 22. The Comoros, independent of France since 1975, lie in the Mozambique channel between Madagascar and the East African coast.

The source said militiamen of the garrison at Mitsoutge, on Grande Comoro 10 kms (6 miles) from Moroni, the capital, had tried to stir the population to revolt. But the source said Mr Abdallah's guards got wind of the uprising and killed seven of the rebels.

Mr. Abdallah made a radio broadcast yesterday in which he spoke of economic difficulties facing the Comoros, but he mentioned no coup attempt. Mr. Abdallah became president in October, 1978 five months after his predecessor, Ali Soilih, was overthrown in a coup by French mercenaries and later killed.

MALAWI

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL PASSED 4 MAR

LD050946 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 81 CA

[Excerpt] When parliament resumed sitting in Zomba this afternoon a bill entitled Constitution Amendment Bill 1981, enabling the life president to nominate a greater number of nominated members of parliament, was introduced and passed.

The bill was presented on behalf of the minister of justice by the minister without portfolio, secretary general and administrative secretary of the Malawi Congress party, Mr Bakili Muluzi. Presenting the bill, Mr Muluzi reminded the members about an announcement which the life president made when he opened the current session of parliament to the effect that he intends to nominate additional members. He explained that under the constitution as it stood, the number of nominated members was limited to only 15. The amendment removes this limitation and gives the life president powers to nominate the number of persons he considers desirable.

MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES 'CIA NETWORK' UNCOVERED

LD042054 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Ministry of Security Communique]

[Text] After intensive investigative work with the support of the people's vigilance, security forces have smashed an important espionage network mounted by the CIA in our country. This network was led by American citizens, who carried out their criminal acts under the cover of diplomats.

The Ministry of Security, National People's Security Service [SNASP], obtained clear information which proves that the CIA had initiated its espionage activities and recruitment of agents during the colonial era using the then U.S. Consulate in the former Lourenco Marques. With the proclamation of our independence and victory over the fascist Portuguese colonialists, the imperialist central agency of espionage and subversion strengthened its subversive activities in our fatherland in order to halt the advancement of socialist construction and the consolidation of our independence.

Accordingly, under the cover of U.S. diplomats, CIA officials were sent to Maputo (?to) strengthen the espionage network, particularly in our capital. During these 6 years, we have noted that the CIA made intense efforts to recruit Mozambique national agents in order to enlarge its espionage network. For this purpose, a number of CIA officials have been at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo from time to time. During these years, the CIA, through its agents, has concerned itself with gathering military information such as the whereabouts of units of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] [words indistinct] information of a political character on the running of our Frelimo Party, and on economic cooperation with socialist countries and with [words indistinct] countries.

With the objective of aggravating our economic difficulties, the CIA also placed and recruited agents in strategic enterprises. During the struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe, CIA agents received orders to collect information on the situation of the ZANU refugeee camps which was immediately communicated to the illegal and minority regime of Ian Smith, which made use of it to carry out its aggression against the People's Republic of Mozambique. (?In attacks initiated) it is now clear that there has been a close liaison [words indistinct] enabling espionage by the minority and apartheid regime [words indistinct]. In fact, one of the tasks given to some of the [word indistinct] agents and now destroyed was the collection of information on the location of residences of the ANC and the movement of South African refugees in our country, among whom they tried to recruit agents. It was also established that the CIA used South Africa as a base leading the support of counterrevolutionary activity and (?deviation) in southern Africa with the objective of causing the destabilization of independent states in the region.

These facts prove that South Africa is the main instrument of imperialism in its strategy of subversion against the interests of the southern African peoples. According to investigations, the CIA espionage and subversion was led and supported during recent years by the following elements:

[Name indistinct] (Caetano de Andrade), employeee of the U.S. Department of [words indistinct]. He was in the People's Repoublic of Mozambique in 1976 with the mission of recruiting informing agents;

(Frederick) [name indistinct] was the head of the CIA network from [word indistinct] 1975 up to the beginning of 1977, and was officially holding the post of second secretary in the U.S. Embassy;

[Name indsitinct], wife of [name indistinct], a CIA collaborator;

[name indistinct], a CIA official. He officially held the post of (?administrative secretary) at the U.S. Embassy from the (?middle) of 1975 up to early 1977;

(Louis) [name indistinct], CIA official (?from) 1977 to 1979. Officially he held the post of third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo.

[Name indistinct] was head of the espionage network (?from) 1977 up to the middle of 1980. Officially he held the post of second secretary at the U.S. Embassy;

(Barbara Smith), CIA collaborator and wife of [name indistinct] (Smith);

[Name indistinct] (Smith), CIA official, officially secretary of the political section of the U.S. Embassy from the (?middle) of 1977 up to 1980;

[Name indistinct] CIA official. He was temporarily in the People's Republic of Mozambique in (?June) 1980 as secretary in the political section of the U.S. Embassy [words indistinct];

(Frederick) [Name indistinct], the present head of the espionage network. He arrived in Maputo in the (?middle) of 1980. Officially he held the post of secretary at the U.S. Embassy;

[Name indistinct] (Olivier Jr), CIA official. He arrived in Maputo in the (?middle) of 1979. In the U.S. Embassy he held the post of second secretary;

[Name indistinct] (Olivier), CIA collaborator and wife of (Olivier Jr);

[Name indistinct], CIA official. He arrived in Maputo (?sometime) in 1980. Officially, he was the head of publications at the U.S. Embassy;

[Name indistinct] (Russell), CIA official. He arrived in Maputo (?sometime) in 1980 and up to now has been in the post of secretary of the Political Department in the U.S. Embassy.

[Words indistinct] of CIA [word indistinct] were linked to the espionage and subversion network which has now been dismantled.

This shows that imperialism of which the CIA is the main instrument of destabilization, takes great interest in our country with the (?aim) of blocking the construction of socialism and the consolidation of the gains of the Mozambique people, united and led by their Frelimo Party. These criminal acts of the enemy, which are [word indistinct] interference condemned by international conventions, in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique will be firmly fought by the defense and security forces (?counting) on the unswerving support of the people's vigilantes.

The dismantling of the espionage network shows the need for the entire Mozambique people to strengthen their revolutionary vigilance and denounce to the defense and security structures unbecoming attitudes and behavior. In time, more details will be revealed on the subversive activity of the CIA in our country, namely, the (?increasing number) of foreign and national agents who took part in this espionage network. The struggle continues. Maputo, 4 March 1981.

'SOURCES' CITED ON AMERICAN, PORTUGUESE ARRESTS

NC041908 Paris AFP in English 1904 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Lisbon, 4 Mar (AFP)--Police in Mozambique arrested dozens of people today in a sweep apparently related to the South African Commando raid on a suburb of Maputo in January, the Portuguese news agency reported from the Mozambican capital. The agency quoted unofficial sources as saying the arrests were intended to smash an anti-government spy ring whose activity helped the South African military attack South African black nationalist targets on January 3. About 20 people were killed, most of them black, but including two South African commandos and a Portuguese man. It was the first reported South African raid into black-ruled Mozambique, which became independent of Portugal in 1975. Since the attack, the regime of President Samora Machel seems to have hardened its stance on South Africa, and Soviet warships have called at Mozambican ports in what the Soviet ambassador to Maputo termed a warning to Pretoria. The Soviet Union and Mozambique are linked by a friendship treaty. The Portuguese agency said that Portuguese and American nationals were among those arrested.

Lisbon Report

LD050036 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2330 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The six Portuguese nationals detained today in Maputo by the Mozambique authorities have been named as (Jose Branco das Neves), physician; (Rogerio de Oliveira Belo), company director; (Luis Ribeiro Couto), aviation technician; (Ana Fonseca Diogo), secretary; (Antonio Manuel dos Santos Gomes), flight instructor; and (Manuel Inacio Botelho de Melo) Jr, employee at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo.

The detentions are said to be connected with the recent South African raid into Mozambique. The detainees are suspected of being involved in that raid.

Meanwhile, the Mozambique Foreign Ministry has already assured the Portuguese ambassador to Maputo that the detained Portuguese nationals will be released if they are proven innocent of any involvement in these events.

Joaquim Chissano, who is to visit Lisbon soon, further stressed that the detention of the six Portuguese has no bearing whatsoever on the present state of Portugal-Mozambique relations.

OFFICIAL CITED ON RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

LD041554 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguest 1300 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] Relations between Mozambique and Portugal have improved recently at government level. This was stated today by the leader of the Mozambique delegation to the 26th CPSU Congress in an interview with the Moscow correspondent of Portuguese radio, Carlos Fino:

[Begin recording] The Mozambique leader, Marcelino dos Santos, told me in an interview here this morning that his country thinks relations with Portugal are useful and would like to develop them. For instance, we are very keen on Portuguese personnel coming to work in our country, he added. We are all for developing relations with Portugal and sometimes are at a loss to understand the obstacles raised by the Portuguese in the way of such cooperation, he said [words indistinct].

Marcelino dos Santos condemned the (?recent pay award to its employees) made by the Cabora Bassa administration but admitted that relations between his country and Portugal had lately improved at government level. [passage indistinct]

The Mozambique delegation leader said his country will adopt all the necessary measures aimed at stopping South Africa from committing fresh acts of aggression (?and to) make Mozambique a [word indistinct] rearguard base for the liberation movements.

The Mozambique leader did not deny the existence of a military agreement with the Soviet Union envisaging the strengthening of his country's army but he evaded a question put to him whether the measures to be adopted could go as far as the setting up of Soviet military bases in Mozambique territory.

Marcelino dos Santos said the presence of Soviet warships in Mozambique harbors--reported on 19 February--was part of a previous cooperation and friendship agreement between the two countries. But, he underlined, this presence also represents a symbolic gesture of solidarity with Mozambique. [end recording]

DEMONSTRATIONS PROTEST SOUTH AFRICAN 'AGGRESSION'

LD041552 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpt] About 5,000 people demonstrated in Massingire, Gaza Province, yesterday, against the recent South African aggression in Mozambique. The demonstration was followed by a rally at which the provincial director of works explained in detail the objectives of the aggression which had as its aim the destabilization of our economy. People taking part in the demonstration handed in about 20 contos in support of our defense capacity.

MAPUTO CITES SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIQUE

LD041236 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The president and the secretary general of the Socialist International, Willy Brandt and (Bernt Carlsson), have condemned the recent attack perpetrated by the Pretoria minority regime against the People's Republic of Mozambique. The two leaders expressed their support for the application of sanctions against the apartheid regime. In a communique the Socialist International condemned the recent attack by the pretoria minority racist government in Maputo.

The communique went on to say that this action, perpetrated at a time of military operations by the Pretoria regime against Angola and of its illegal occupation of Namibia, strengthened, once more, the need for the application of mandatory international sanctions against the white minority directorate.

At the end of the communique, Willy Brandt and (Bernt Carlsson) also said that the Socialist International would collaborate as much as possible to contribute to the success of sanctions against the apartheid regime.

SOUTH AFRICA

PREMIER TERMS UN VOTE 'ILLEGAL,' 'IMPROPER'

LD041438 Johannesburg International Service in English 1112 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, met with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. R.F. Botha, in Cape Town yesterday to discuss the exclusion of South Africa from the United Nations General Assembly. Our Cape Town correspondent put it to the foreign minister that the General Assembly's attitude was of little account as it was the Security Council that was directly involved in the South-West Africa, Namibiam settlement drive:

[Begin R.F. Botha recording] The General Assembly instructs, directs the secretary general who is to play a major role in the settlement plan. The General Assembly instructs him to make funds available to SWAPO. The General Assembly provides the funds to SWAPO which gives SWAPO a tremendous psychological advantage over all the other internal parties.

Now on that fact alone I say that it is sheer nonsense to make that kind of allegation or to continue along that kind of thought. Furthermore, the same members who are in the Security Council are also members of the General Assembly and you have just noticed that an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly was obtained against South Africa in an illegal way, in an improper way. Now do you for one moment think that those countries who voted against us illegally and unreasonably in the General Assembly--that their ambassadors, the moment they change their seats from the General Assembly to the Security Council, are now suddenly becoming angels, that suddenly they switch on and off like an electric light. You know their impartiality and their partiality. That is sheer nonsense. That is the kind of talk you hear from the do-gooders, from all over (?Europe) at times, and this is the kind of thought you get from SWAPO and the United Nations. We are not fooled by it any longer. It surprises me that people in this country can even ask such questions.

[Interviewer] Mr Botha, the debate in the meantime on possible sanctions against South Africa goes on. What do you think will happen.

[R.F. Botha] Judging from the present mood I think that radicals in the General Assembly will press for sanctions against South Africa. But the General Assembly is not empowered in terms of the charter to issue sanctions, to impose sanctions. So I think that they would probably now decide to forward a request to the Security Council to impose sanctions against South Africa, or to take other punitive measures against South Africa.

I expect that there would be a veto in present circumstances in the Security Council to block the sanctions proposal. I am certain of it. I am giving you my assessment at the present moment. I think that in turn will enrage the majority of the members of the General Assembly and that they will then almost immediately take up the matter again in the General Assembly, to endeavor to pass a resolution parallel to the so-called uniting for peace resolution of the early fifties when the United States at that time, in a reverse role, encountered a Soviet veto in the Security Council and then proposed a resolution in the General Assembly to take action to resist Soviet aggression in Korea. That is of course illegal; it is against the charter provisions and it should never have been done. But be that as it may I expect that to happen. We will then have a serious situation in the sense that the General Assembly would illegally call upon states to impose sanctions against South Africa. I do not think that in practice it will make a vast difference, but it will certainly bring the whole of southern Africa into a very serious situation immediately because South Africa will not sit back all the time and just observe these events directed against her. It must be remembered that sanctions against South Africa will in practice mean sanctions against the whole of southern Africa, including all the states of southern Africa, whether they like it or not, and the sooner that this fact is brought to their notice the better.

[Interviewer] How do you interpret America's stance in voting for the acceptance of South Africa's credentials?

[R.F. Botha] It is in line with the general attitude of the Americans as a nation to be fair and reasonable, in other words to give the other man a chance to state his case. [end recording]

P.W. BOTHA COMMENTS ON REAGAN'S TV REMARKS

LD041634 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says it is good to know that President Ronald Reagan of the United States, as leader of the free world, acknowledges and appreciates the strategic importance of South Africa. Mr Botha was commenting in Cape Town on a television interview with President Reagan in which he said that the United States would not turn its back summarily on South Africa. President Reagan not only called South Africa a wartime ally but also said it was the producer of essential minerals. He went on to praise certain whites and blacks who were trying to remove apartheid. Mr Botha said that stability and orderly development in southern Africa, with the maintenance of civilized value standards, were prerequisites for maintaining strategic importance. The manner in which this had to be achieved remained in the first instance the right and task of South Africa. The prime minister said that the role played in this regard by whites and other minority groups could not be underestimated.

JOHANNESBURG ON REAGAN APPROACH TO REGIONAL TIES

LD041628 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Mar 81

[Text] We now present a news commentary. We comment on President Reagan and South Africa. In a statement on television yesterday, President Reagan made clear his attitude toward South Africa. In a few simple sentences he disposed of the ambiguity and the veiled hostility which in recent years has characterised Washington's approach to this country. When Mr Reagan first entered the presidential race there was speculation concerning his assessment of South Africa, but it was something of an academic exercise then, since in the beginning he was given little chance of winning. As his prospects improved the subject received more serious, though cautious, attention. The conventional wisdom then was that any change in policy on South Africa following a Reagan victory would be one of emphasis rather than essence.

Even in the past few weeks as the UN session on South-West Africa loomed, it was being said in Washington that the new adminsitration's view of Africa was still in the process of formulation and that no definitive statement on the subject should be expected immediately or soon. It was in such circumstances that President Reagan made his television statement yesterday. He described South Africa as a friendly country; he spoke of its common cause with Africa in the past and of its strategic importance. His words were: Can we abandon a country that has stood beside us in every war we have ever fought, a country that is essential to the free world, that has minerals. He said there had been a failure in the United States, perhaps for political reasons, to recognise efforts by blacks and whites in South Africa to remove apartheid. As long as there is a sincere and honest effort being made, he said, we should be trying to be helpful.

President Reagan has cut through the speculation and the double talk and has put his relationship with South Africa straight on the line. This is apparently a definitive statement and it does not represent a change in emphasis but a substantial change. It does not modify but reverses the approach of the Carter administration. As a consequence, the president can now expect to be challenged in many quarters by the radical black states, the Nonaligned Movement, the UN majority, by expedient Western allies and at home by the liberal eastern establishment, many church bodies, activist students and American blacks. Few politicians in this day and age would be prepared to speak so plainly on so controversial a subject, but it typifies the simple authoritative honesty that has thus far marked the Reagan presidency.

JOHANNESBURG CRITICIZES UN ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

LD050936 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] We comment on the UN in a dead end. The latest action to exclude South Africa from debate in the United Nations General Assembly has had the opposite effect of those intended. It has strengthened South Africa's diplomatic position in the world. It has destroyed the case of the communists and radical blocs on South-West Africa and it has greatly increased the financial and political vulnerability of (?smaller) Third World countries, especially in Africa. Those are the most obvious implications of the illegal decisions taken by the General Assembly this week to reject South Africa's credentials. The action forced a firm stand to be taken publicly by the United States on South Africa's rights as a UN member to be heard.